△ On the Greatest National Holiday

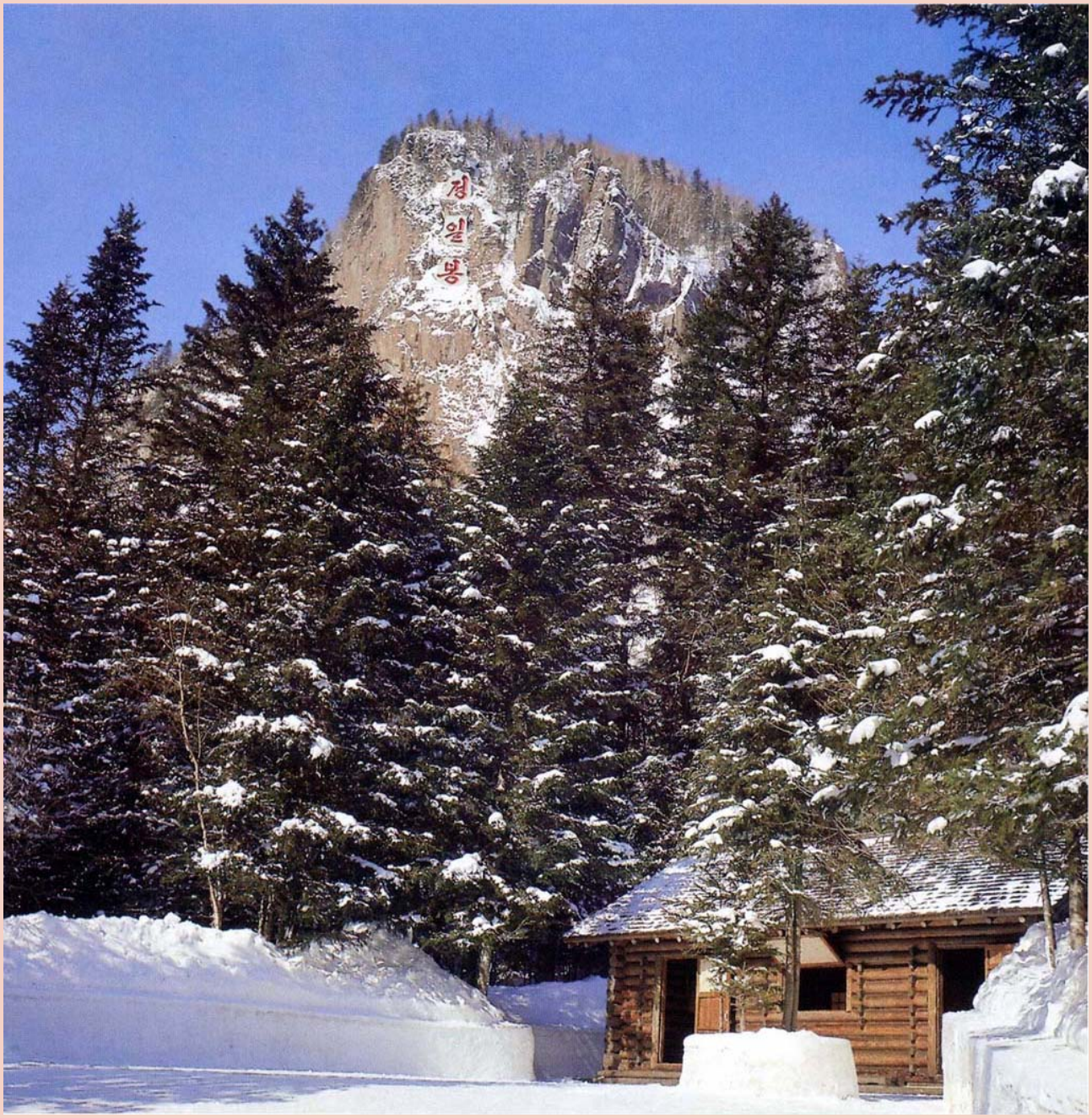
△ Kim Chaek University of Technology

Korea Today

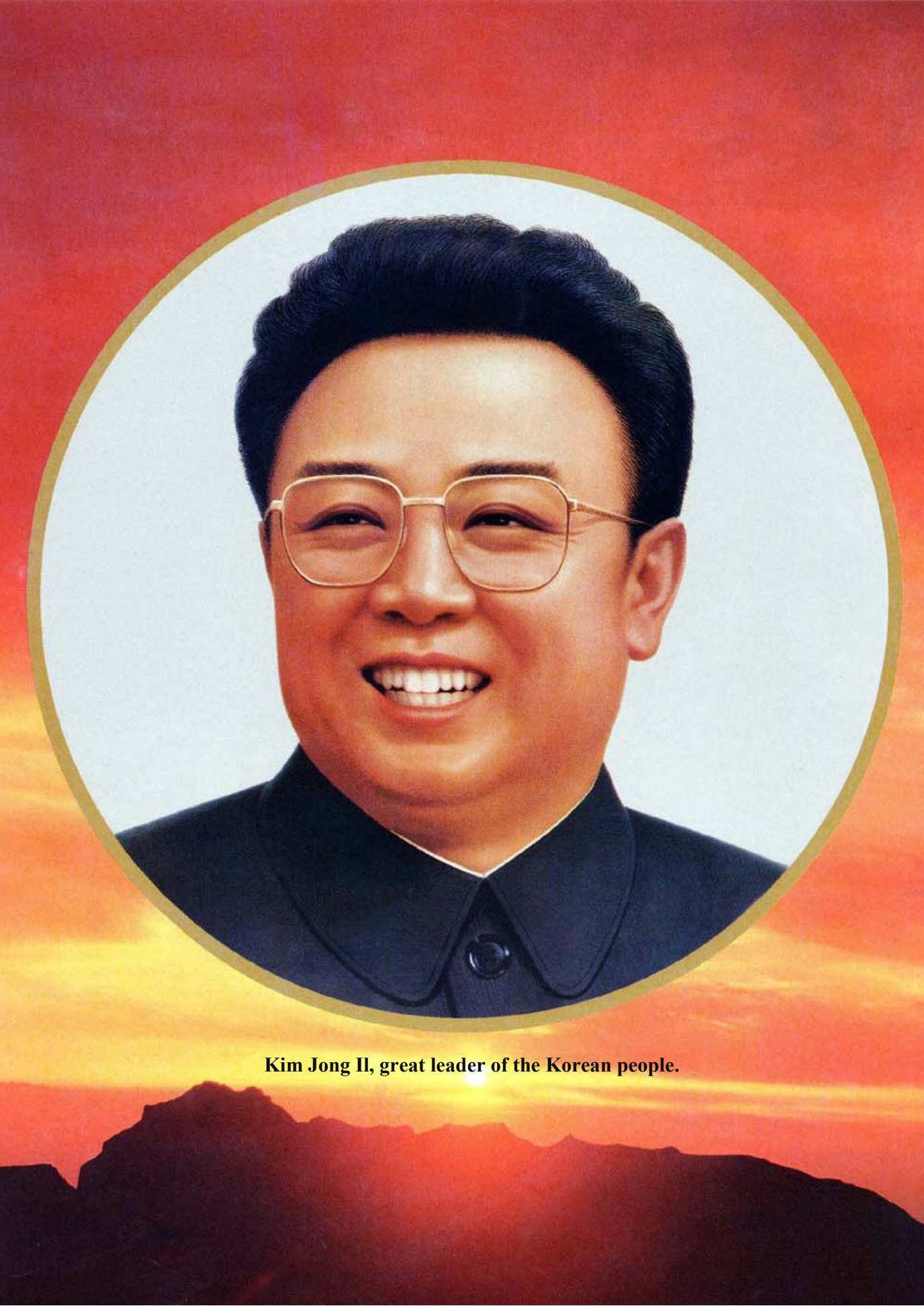
2

Juche 91 (2002)

“Mt. Paektu is my birthplace.”
KIM JONG IL



The log cabin where leader Kim Jong Il was born, at the Secret Camp on Mt. Paektu.



Kim Jong Il, great leader of the Korean people.

Great leader Kim Jong Il's immortal exploits and outstanding leadership

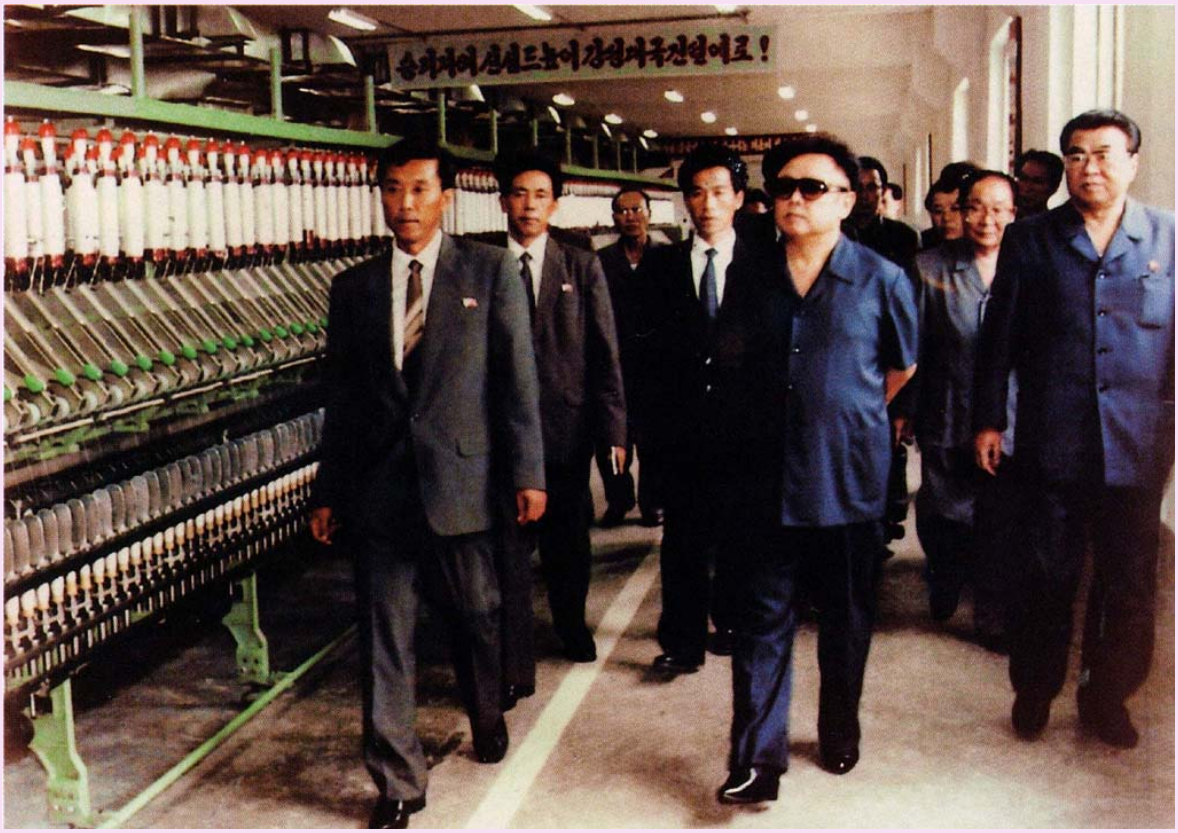
Carrying forward the Juche Revolutionary cause

In discussion with President Kim Il Sung.

Admirably leading the building of a strong and prosperous country

Meeting workers at the Ranam Coal Mining Machine Complex in August Juche 90(2001).

Inspecting an outdoor pond teeming with catfish in September Juche 89.



Giving on-the-spot guidance to the Kanggye Silk Spinning Mill in August Juche 89.

Giving personal guidance to the land-rezoning project in South Hwanghae Province in December Juche 89.

Developing the Korean People's Army into an invincible force

Visiting a KPA unit in September Juche 72.

Inspecting the KPA unit No. 212 in March Juche 86.

Acknowledging the salutes of soldiers at the military parade in April Juche 86, on the 65th anniversary of the KPA.

Promoting the effort for national reunification

Exchanging greetings with President Kim Dae Jung in June Juche 89.

Talking to leaders of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan in December Juche 75.

Enjoying a hearty chat with south Korean media representatives, interfused with compatriotic feelings, in August Juche 89.

Advancing the global cause of independence

The EU highranking delegation paying a formal visit to leader Kim Jong Il in May Juche 90.

Greeting Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, in September Juche 90.

Meeting Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, in August Juche 90.

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The DPRK team won the men's roller-hockey event at the 9th Asian Roller-Skating Championships.

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Front Cover: **February Celebrations**

February 16 is the birthday of the great leader Kim Jong Il. Jong Il Peak embodies the Korean people's infinite admiration and praise of Kim Jong Il who has made immortal achievements in the efforts to build a prosperous country and advance the cause of independence of mankind.

Photo by Ri Song Ik

*Back Cover :***Visitors on the March to Mt. Paektu**

Photo by Kim Jong Sik

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On the Greatest National Holiday

THE Korean people are dynamically stepping up their campaign to build a strong and prosperous nation. Against this background, they now celebrate the significant birthday (February 16) of leader Kim Jong Il.

Greeting the February holiday, the most auspicious day of the Korean nation, the Korean people are filled with boundless reverence for leader Kim Jong Il who is devoting all he possesses solely for their dignity and prosperity and mankind's cause of independence. Progressive people the world over are extending their greeting to him, celebrating this day as a common holiday of mankind.

To the Korean people, the 20th century shines as a glorious century embroidered with heroic events and epoch-making changes, a proud century in which Korean socialism won victory after victory and the dignity of the country was displayed all over the world.

The Korean people could bring about a radical change in carving out their own destiny and follow the path of unbounded prosperity and development for the first time in their 5,000-year-long history as they were led by the great leader President Kim Il Sung. Under the leadership of the WPK General Secretary Kim Jong Il, they have ushered in a period of rapid advance for the Juche revolutionary cause, surmounting all obstacles and difficulties on their way. Kim Jong Il is a great revolutionary and a brilliant commander of extraordinary calibre. He has led the cause of independence of the popular masses to victory by displaying his remarkable political ability and conducting energetic revolutionary activities, never being drawn into the vortex of history full of ups and downs. The Korean leader has thus added luster to the 20th century by creating an era of independence.

Kim Jong Il was born on Mt. Paektu, the sacred revolutionary mountain, and grew up amid the flames of the grim war against Japanese and US imperialism.

He has led the struggle to complete the Juche revolution, himself becoming the most faithful comrade and helper of President Kim Il Sung. Thus he has accomplished great exploits for the country and the people.

Through his energetic ideological and theoretical activities, he has realized the monolithic systematization of the Juche idea, has comprehensively developed it and has set out a number of new ideas and theories that illuminate the way ahead for socialism.

The Korean people were able to advance vigorously along the road indicated by the Juche idea in the difficult and complicated latter half of the 20th century, firmly holding the rudder of history and without the slightest deviation. This was thanks to Kim Jong I1's outstanding ideological and theoretical activities.

The greatness of his unique ideological and theoretical work was proved in the eventful 1990s, when the anti-socialist offensive of the imperialists reached its zenith and the world socialist movement faced unprecedented challenges.

Through his profound thought and scientific investigation he authored many works, including "Socialism Is a Science" and "Abuses of Socialism Are Intolerable". In these books he irrefutably proved the validity, scientific accuracy and truth of socialism and the inevitability of its triumph. By so doing, he has torn to shreds the imperialists' theory about the end of socialism and has guaranteed the sound development of the world socialist movement and the triumphant advance of the cause of independence.

Kim Jong Il has provided a guarantee for the victory of the revolutionary cause by strengthening the driving force of the revolution.

He advanced the policy of modeling the whole party upon the Juche idea and has wisely led the endeavors for its implementation. As a result, the Workers' Party of Korea embodies this idea, and the steel-like unity and cohesion of its ranks in ideology and purpose have been achieved. The WPK has become a revolutionary, Juche-type party, taking root deep among the popular masses. The leader has made sure that a radical change has been made in the Party's working methods, in line with the demands of a new revolutionary era. The move has helped to more vigorously push forward the work to build a powerful nation.

Kim Jong Il has brilliantly

taken over and carried forward the cause of Party building initiated by President Kim Il Sung. That is why the WPK is now demonstrating its might as an experienced and seasoned militant party which is creditably discharging its mission as the political guide and organizer of all victories. It is Comrade Kim Il Sung's party, confidently leading the Juche revolutionary cause to its completion.

Kim Jong Il has strengthened and developed the People's Army into the army of the leader, the army of the Party and the army of the people. It has become a powerful revolutionary armed force, fully equipped with modern means of attack and defence, and capable of defeating any aggressors. That strength has been achieved by the leader's policy of giving prominence to military affairs and his wise leadership of the cause of Juche-oriented army building over many years.

Gifted with foresight and great intelligence, Kim Jong Il has displayed remarkable understanding of the circumstances the Korean revolution faces, has vigorously advanced the building of the revolutionary armed forces as the most important of state affairs during the whole period of his revolutionary activities, and has provided a firm military guarantee for the accomplishment of the Juche revolutionary cause. These are the most outstanding achievements he has made for the Korean revolution.

Under his leadership, the transformation of the whole society on the basis of the Juche idea was dynamically stepped up. In this process, a large contingent of Juche revolutionaries has been trained and entire population has become a single, united whole, knitted together by the same ideology and purpose, with the Party as its pivot and with the revolutionary army as its backbone. As a result, the motive force of the Korean revolution has been fortified immeasurably. Thanks to this powerful Juche revolutionary force, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is able to firmly defend Korean-style socialism, even in the midst of worldwide political upheaval, and open up a new era of history in which the cause of building a powerful nation will be realized.

Kim Jong Il has opened a new phase of epochal significance in the cause of national reunification by leading the nationwide struggle to put into effect President Kim Il Sung's final instructions on the issue.

He has created the opportunity to put an end to national division by taking decisive patriotic steps and displaying remarkable farsightedness to provide a detailed reunification program. The work he has done in this sphere will go down forever in the history of the national movement.

Due to the leadership of Kim Jong Il, a genius of ideology and leadership and a determined and brilliant commander, the Korean people were able to firmly defend and glorify the ideas, social system and cause of Korea, holding high the socialist red flag, even under the most adverse circumstances.

The Korean people have converted their country into an ideologically and militarily strong country and a political power by victoriously carrying out the Juche revolutionary cause in the raging storms of history. This would have been unthinkable without experienced revolutionary leadership.

Kim Jong Il firmly adheres to the Juche idea at all times and leads the cause of socialism along the straightest road.

"Live, struggle and create in our own way!"—this is his political philosophy. His is most correct politics conforming with the demand of the Korean revolution and the aspiration of the Korean people as it is consistent with such a political ideal.

The DPRK is ushering in a new age of great powerfulness, demonstrating the vitality of Korean-style socialism amidst the acute confrontation with the imperialist allied forces which are trying their hardest to stifle the country. This reality is clear proof of his unusual wisdom.

Kim Jong Il has refined comradeship, the lifeline of the Korean revolution, into single-hearted unity. By relying on this great strength, he has led the cause of socialism along the road of victory.

The history of his revolutionary activities is a proud one in which bonds of kinship have been formed firmly between the leader and the popular masses under his benevolent loving care and deep trust. It is a glorious history in which our country has advanced dynamically, winning victory after victory by relying on the great strength of this harmonious whole.

The leader and the people have been united by love and loyalty. Their deep mutual trust has brought about the single-hearted unity of the leader, the Party and the popular masses.

Accordingly, socialist construction has been stepped up and a new era of Juche Korea has been ushered in.

Thanks to Kim Jong I1's benevolent politics, the politics of love and trust, the unity of the

Party, the army and the people has become rock-solid. This has enabled the DPRK to frustrate the enemy's attempts to isolate and choke it, surmount manifold economic difficulties and honorably defend the red flag of socialism.

The leader established the People's Army as the main force of the revolution, breaking the deadlock to forcefully push ahead with the revolution and construction as a whole by relying on it. The result has been a considerable increase in the DPRK's national power in the political, military, and economic fields.

In the fierce confrontation with the imperialists, Korean socialism has been firmly defended and reliable foundations for the building of a powerful nation have been laid. In addition, many monumental creations of our age have been built, an epochal phase has been brought about in the struggle to achieve the reunification of Korea, and the international status of the DPRK has been raised unprecedentedly. All these miraculous successes and marvellous events are the brilliant victories of Kim Jong I1's army-centered politics.

The Korean people, embarking upon the grand march of the 21st century, are now making great progress in building a strong and prosperous nation under his wise leadership.

The 21st century will be a glorious century in which leader Kim Jong I1's politics, proved in the storm of history, will fully blossom, a century in which Korea will demonstrate its grandeur as a powerful nation of Juche.

The future of the Korean nation is bright.

Optimistic about their future, the Korean people will uphold Kim Jong I1's leadership with loyalty and make the new century shine as a century of prosperity. ❑

The Worldwide Spread of Kimjongilia

It was 14 years ago, in February Juche 77 (1988), that Kimjongilia made its first public appearance. Kamo Mototeru, head of the Kamo Garden of Irises in Kakegawa City, Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan, bred a new flower of the begonia family after 20 years of energetic study and vigorous effort. He named it after leader Kim Jong Il and, greeting the Korean leader's birthday, made a present of it to him. At that time, Mototeru wrote in his letter to the leader that this lifelong desire was to create most beautiful flower and name it after the greatest man that ever lived.

Kimjongilia is now in full bloom not only in Korea, but in many other countries of the world.

In a garden of irises near Amsterdam, the capital of the Netherland, in Havana, Cuba, and at the Kim Il Sung Bookshop in Madagascar, an island nation of Africa, Kimjongilia, emitting its sweet fragrance, can be found.

Attracting the great interest of the floriculturists and flower lovers of the world, in Juche 88 (1999), the World Floriculture Exhibition was held in Kunming, China. The event was the largest of its kind ever held in the world.

69 countries and 26 international organizations took part in the exhibition and flowers and plants of 2,400 varieties were put on display. Kimjongilia won the supreme prize, the Grand, and the diploma of honor.

Chief Secretary Kim In Gi, Korea Kimjongilia Federation

At the 12th International Flower Exhibition, held in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia (at that time), Kimjongilia won the gold medal and special prize, and at the North Europe Flower Exhibition in Sweden, it won the highest praise from judges.

Reflecting globally increasing interest in the flower, Kimjongilia greenhouses have been inaugurated in China and Madagascar, and the Japan Kimjongilia Lovers' Association, Mongolia Kimjongilia Association, and North Europe Kimjongilia Association have been formed. Kimjongilia has spread to 60 countries in five continents. To date, individuals of 108 countries have taken 7,600 specimens of Kimjongilia to their countries.

Many foreigners have produced works of arts, including songs, poems and craft items, based on Kimjongilia. ❑

Brief History of Kim Jong Il

The DPRK leader Kim Jong Il is the General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission and the Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army.

- Born the son of President Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Suk at the Mt. Paektu Secret Camp in Samjiyon County, Ryanggang Province, Korea, on February 16, Juche 31 (1942).
- Went through the common education course in Pyongyang from September Juche 39 to August Juche 49.
- Studied at Kim Il Sung University from September Juche 49 to March Juche 53.
- Joined the WPK on July 22, Juche 50.
- Performed years of exploits while working as instructor, section chief, vice-director and then director of a department of the WPK Central Committee from June Juche 53.
- Elected member of the WPK Central Committee at the 5th plenary meeting of the 5th Central Committee in October Juche 61, and secretary of the Central Committee at the 7th plenary meeting of the 5th Central Committee in September Juche 62.
- Elected member of the Political Commission of the WPK Central Committee and acclaimed successor to President Kim Il Sung at the 8th plenary meeting of the 5th Central Committee in February Juche 63.
- Elected member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, secretary of the Central Committee, and member of the WPK Central Military Commission at the 6th Congress of the WPK in October Juche 69.
- Has been a deputy to the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) since the 7th SPA in February Juche 71.
- Elected First Vice-Chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission at the 1st session of the 9th SPA in May Juche 79.
- Acclaimed the Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army at the 19th plenary meeting of the 6th WPK Central Committee in December Juche 80, and elected Chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission at the 5th session of the 9th SPA in April Juche 82.
- Given the title of DPRK Marshal in April Juche 81.
- Acclaimed the General Secretary of the WPK in October Juche 86, and reelected Chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission at the 1st session of the 10th SPA in September Juche 87.
- Published a number of writings in *Kim Jong Il Selected Works* (14 volumes), *Accomplishing Juche Revolutionary Cause* (10 volumes) and other books.
- Received the title of DPRK Hero three times, in Juche 64, 71 and 81; Kim Il Sung Order three times, in Juche 67, 71 and 81;
- Kim Il Sung Prize in February Juche 62; and many other orders and medals.
- Visited the Soviet Union in Juche 48;
- Indonesia in Juche 54; China in June Juche 72, May Juche 89 and January Juche 90; and the Russian Federation in July-August Juche 90, making great achievements.
- Received orders, medals, honorary titles, honorary professorships and doctorates from many countries of the world.

Greetings to the Korean People

I live far from Korea
With continents and oceans between us,
But my mind resides always
In this land of Juche

The land changing as the days pass,
The country ever strong,
I visit you to extend greetings
To your people

Languages differ,
Living places differ,
But, we share one ideal and aspiration
And we live in friendship
Korea, you are my closest neighbor
Such dignified country as you

Following the leadership of General Kim Jong Il
Under the army-centered policy
Can't be found elsewhere in the world
Korea, you are the citadel of independence.

I have never known such honorable people
With their strong Juche character and national identity,
The people who don't know
Of retreat and vacillation
Faced with natural disasters
And the threat of imperialist forces

Greetings to Korea, ever powerful
Under the leadership of Kim Jong Il!
Glory to Korea,
A bright future is yours!

In Orori Plain

Oh, Orori plain
Which had been wrinkled
By numerous boundary ridges in the past!
Today so many boundaries disappeared
And a wide panorama, a boundless plain, spreads out
Where should I stand on tiptoe
To see the end of this plain?
Look at the cranes,
That used to alight here
But now fly all day long,
Failing to find the land
For it is covered by the waves of rice plants
The history of the boundless plain began

In the footprints of General Kim Jong Il
Who called on your regardless of rain or shine
To transform the centuries-old wrinkled land
Today other plains follow your appearance,
And a golden wave of ripe crops is swaying
As an ocean one thousand ri north.
Another thousand ri south, with no boundaries

Oh, I think of
The sound of the swaying ears of rice
As the voice of thanks to General Kim Jong Il,
Their droop as a bow to him

Anders Kristensen
Chairman, Denmark-DPRK Friendship Association

Korean Proverbs

- Talent is not to be bought at the market.

The belief that talent cannot be a purchase, as it is an ability cultivated and refined purposefully.

- No trace after idling, but merit after studying.

The idea that one should study hard, as it will always be rewarded.

How Korean Children See Their Future

Not long ago, I visited the Pyongyang Students and Children's Palace and dropped in at the accordion club. While I was chatting with the teacher in charge of the club, a delegation from France entered the room. Young Children's Union members warmly welcomed the guests by playing a lilting and happy tune on the accordion. After the performance, the leader of the delegation asked them to play another tune. In high spirits by this time, they tried to show off their technical skills.

The delegation leader kept his eyes on them with a smile on his face. When their performance was over, he applauded before anybody else and came close to them.

He patted a pupil in the first row gently on the cheeks and asked him what kind of work he wanted to do in the future.

The pupil replied that he would be an agricultural engineer. The delegation leader was surprised at his answer, as he had thought that the pupil would want to become a musician, so he asked which of his parents currently worked on a co-operative farm.

The pupil replied that his father was a smelter at a steel plant and his mother an analyst at a foodstuffs factory.

Hearing this, the delegation leader again looked around the pupils with a surprised expression. At that moment, a pupil beside the boy in question stepped forward and said, "Sir, he always says to us, 'Father Marshal Kim Jong Il makes on-the-spot guidance tours at all times only to bring happiness to us. The way of bringing the greatest joy to him is to do farming well. So, I am going to be an agricultural engineer in the future.'" The pupil then expressed his own intention. “I will join the army to defend this happiness with arms.”

The delegation leader looked at the pupils silently for a while, then hugged them and stroked their cheeks.

Listening to their conversation from the beginning, I was deeply impressed. "Now I see..." I said to myself.

Before leaving the palace, the delegation leader made the following entry in the guest book:

"There is no need to climb all peaks to know how magnificent the mountains are. Through the pupils' words I have come to understand more clearly the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and its leader Kim Jong Il." ❑

Translated Editions of Works Published Abroad

The translated editions of the celebrated works by President Kim Il Sung and leader Kim Jong Il were printed in 9,500 copies in nine countries, including Russia and Cuba, to mark the 53rd anniversary of the **DPRK**.

The booklets published in Russia and Pakistan comprise the President's works, **Let Us Uphold Independence, 10-Point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country, On the Five-Point Policy for National Reunification and Enhancing the Role of the Popular Masses Is the Guarantee for Victory in the Cause of Independence.** The booklets published in Cuba, Russia, Nepal, Peru, India, Cambodia and Germany contain Kim Jong Il’s works, **Let Us March Forward Dynamically Along the Road of Socialism and Communism under the Unfurled Banner of the Anti-Imperialist Struggle, Giving Priority to Ideological Work Is Essential for Accomplishing Socialism, Let Us Defend Our Style of Socialism and Exalt Its Brilliance Under the Banner of the Juche Idea, Let Us Carry Out the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung's Instructions for National Reunification, Socialism Is a Science, The Workers' Party of Korea Organizes and Guides All the Victories of Our People and The Historical Lesson in Building Socialism and the General Line of Our Party.**

The book *On Carrying Forward the Juche Idea* containing Kim Jong Il's works **Socialism Is a Science and On the Fundamentals of Revolutionary Party Building** was published in Mexico.

On the Strength of Army-Centred Leadership

Leader Kim Jong Il is defending socialism by leading the army-centred revolution in the DPRK.

One day, while talking to senior officials about the leadership exploits of President Kim Il Sung, who founded the army first and, on that basis, advanced the revolution and construction to victory, Kim Jong Il said.

"When the army is strong and all the people learn from the revolutionary spirit of soldiers displayed by the army during this period of severe trials, national dignity and the socialist system can be strengthened and defended from the enemies' moves to isolate and stifle the country, and the revolution and construction can be advanced."

Kim Jong Il's leadership of the Korean revolution is marked by his determination to defend the Korean revolution to the last with arms, the tools with which it was hewn and advanced.

Conviction of Sure Victory

In late January Juche 88 (1999), Kim Jong Il met some officials to discuss ways of establishing a more cultured way of production and life.

He said, "We must make a revolution on this land and build a socialist paradise by developing it.

We must turn out as one in the struggle to establish a more cultured way of production and life, with the attitude that we must keep streets, villages, houses and workplaces neat and clean until midnight, even if war will break out the next day."

Even at the time when the nation was undergoing unprecedented hardship, he emphasized the importance of establishing a more cultured way of production and life, and personally led the campaign.

His visible confidence gave the officials a clear picture of a prosperous future of the homeland.

Pleasure of the Leader

Whenever officials showed concern about the heavy burden of work imposed on him, Kim Jong Il used to say that he was going to live up to the expectations of the people.

Whenever the people are worried about his inspection of army units at the front, he earnestly says, "President Kim Il Sung walked a rugged road for the people for all his years."

He never failed to go to the people, even if the roads were treacherous. I, too, will walk any rugged road if it is for the sake of the country and the people.

"My pleasure is always in the happiness of the people. I spare nothing if it would improve the lives of the people. My inspection tours of army units, factories, enterprises and several other sectors are all for the happiness of people." This is the golden message, Kim Jong Il gave to the officials in early December Juche 87 (1998).

To Make This Year a Year of New Surge

On New Year's Day, Juche 91 (2002), the newspapers of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Korean People's Army and the Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League published a joint editorial under the headline "Glorify this year of President Kim Il Sung's 90th birthday as a year of a new surge in the building of a powerful nation".

Below we publish excerpts from the joint editorial.

Today we welcome the new year Juche 91 (2002) against a background of heightened political awareness and amidst the euphoria of the whole nation.

2001 was a historic year in which a breakthrough was made in the building of a powerful socialist nation in the 21st century.

We brought our campaign in the first year of the new century to a successful conclusion with the same indomitable spirit displayed during the victorious "Arduous March".

Last year was a year of pride when we fully displayed the dignity of our country to the world.

It was a year of unity in which we saw a blossoming harmony amongst the whole society as well as a year of great progress when the flames of the new revolutionary surge of the new century flared up.

Socialist construction, which had experienced several years of problems, has now entered a new phase of development. In the economy as a whole, greatly increased production activity took place and hi-tech production bases sprang up in many parts of the country.

The Torch of Ranam was kindled amidst huge efforts to open up the road of advance in the new century. It was a call for a new leap forward in the first year of the new century, providing us with a sure guarantee of a bright future as a thriving and powerful country.

Last year was characterised as a year of struggle to frustrate the undisguised challenges of the imperialists and firmly defend the socialist bulwark.

Entering the new century, the imperialists' moves to isolate and stifle us became more undisguised than ever before. Our army and people frustrated their attempts at every stage, responding to their hard-line stance with tougher one. The imperialists who resorted to arbitrary decision and execution and the policy of strength did not dare attack us. Socialism of our own style, which advances with surer strides along the path selected by us even under the rapidly changing situation without the slightest vacillation, has become an inspiring banner to the people aspiring after progress, peace and socialism.

The brilliant victories we won in the first year of the new century were a manifestation of the greatness of Kim Jong Il and the fruit of the WPK's army-based revolutionary line.

This year will be a year of triumphant progress to further glorify the history and exploits of President Kim Il Sung and leader Kim Jong Il and a year of a new surge in the building of a powerful nation.

Leader Kim Jong Il said:

"It is our Party's unshakeable determination, and the unanimous desire of our army and people, to build on this land a socialist power where the Juche idea is fully incorporated and our nation's dignity is demonstrated to the whole world."

This year is a year of great significance, for it marks the 90th birthday of President Kim Il Sung and the 70th anniversary of the founding of the heroic Korean People's Army. It is the steadfast will of our army and people to carry out the lifetime intentions and cause of President Kim Il Sung, father of Juche-based socialism and founder of the KPA, and carry forward the traditions created on Mt. Paektu.

We will launch a new year's campaign under the slogan "Glorify this year of President Kim Il Sung's 90th birthday as a year of a new surge in the building of a powerful nation!".

This year's revolutionary march is a campaign to add brilliance to the dignity and honour of Kim Il Sung's nation by embodying the belief that our leader, ideology, army and system are our most cherished possessions.

The spirit of placing our leader in the preeminent position will be displayed to the full.

The leader is a symbol of national dignity. The pure feelings that regard the leader and the Sun's nation, Kim Il Sung's nation, as excellent, will always remain in the hearts of our people through generations.

The achievements of lasting value made by President Kim Il Sung are the mainstay for the building of a powerful nation in the 21st century. With the President's 90th birthday as the centrepiece of the year, the feeling that the President is always with us will pervade the whole of society.

Leader Kim Jong Il is an extraordinary politician endowed with unusual foresight and rich experience gathered in a long political career. He is a peerless man of unlimited energy, who leads the revolution and construction with tremendous enthusiasm. His leadership has been and will forever be a banner of our victory. We will be loyal comrades whose beliefs and attitude are the same as our leader's and who share the same fate.

We will give priority to our ideology.

The Korean revolution began under the banner of the Juche idea and has emerged victorious from all the storms and tempests of history. The importance we attach to our ideology stems from a firm belief in the invincibility of the Juche idea and the will to fight on, eternally guided by the idea of Kim Jong Il.

We consider the Juche idea to be our permanent strategic objective in the revolution.

We will stick to an independent stand in the revolution and construction, as required by the Juche idea. We will rise up with our own spirit and by our own efforts as we did during the "Arduous March", never compromising our policies and principles. We will give full play to our national identity in all aspects of life, such as language and customs, and value everything that is our own. We will staunchly defend our national interests at all times and become ardent patriots, genuine Korean nationalists, who add lustre to the national dignity and honour.

We will ensure that the policy of giving priority to military affairs finds its full embodiment.

Military power is precisely national power and sovereignty. Attaching key importance to the army is the glorious tradition of the Korean revolution, a revolution that has made its successful journey backed by arms. It is the eternal signal post of Korean-style socialism, which advances, supported by an invincible military force.

We will make this year, which coincides with the 70th anniversary of the KPA, a year of victors in which the invincible might of the heroic Korean People's Army, which has developed under the leadership of the brilliant commander of Mt. Paektu, is demonstrated to the full. The People's Army will strive to set an example to the rest of society in all aspects of the revolution and construction, and become standard-bearers of the revolutionary ranks, as required by army-centred politics.

The attitude of our People's Army towards the imperialist aggressors is stubborn and our arms are merciless. If the US imperialists and their followers start war, they will never escape the fate of forlorn wandering spirits and the enemy's bulwark of aggression at any place on the globe will never be safe.

The KPA will intensify military and political training in every way, under the slogan calling on every soldier to become a-match-for-a-hundred combatants and defend our country, motherland and hometowns with their lives.

Ours are a people who have accepted the army-first principle as their faith through long experience. The people and the army will maintain the bonds of kinship, whereby the former loves the latter as they do their own flesh and blood, true to our army-first idea, and the latter serves the former with devotion, true to our people-first idea.

We will bring the view of valuing our own system into full bloom.

What is most important in this regard at present is to speed up socialist economic construction, so as to boost the people's living standards.

"Glorify the greatest holiday of the nation with proud achievements in the building of an economic power!" Under this appeal, we will break new ground in socialist construction on all fronts.

Great effort will continue to go into the development of the mining industry, in line with the demands of our self-supporting economy. The power, coal and metal industries and railway transportation will remain the key sectors in economic construction, taking the lead in the nation's economic development. The Party's policy of making a radical advance in agriculture, the validity of which has already been proved in practice, will be fully implemented to boost agricultural production. The land realignment project in South Hwanghae Province and the Kaechon-Lake Thaesong waterway project will be completed to the highest possible standards.

The advantages of our socialist system will find their expression in the people's living standards. Priority will be given to producing goods demanded by the popular masses and to the solution of those problems affecting the people's daily life.

The changed situation and the practice of our revolution urgently demand that we improve and perfect economic management on revolutionary lines.

Ensuring maximum efficiency while adhering to socialist principles is a policy that must be adhered to in implementing the socialist economic management model which our Party has set. The Juche-oriented principle of managing a planned economy will always be maintained and central, unified guidance will be provided by the state to give full rein to the initiatives of lower-level units. The socialist principle of distribution will be strictly adhered to and public welfare work improved.

In order to demonstrate the excellence of our system

more fully, nation-wide attention will be paid to the development of science and technology, and education.

The country's prosperity is guaranteed by science and technology, and the talent of its people. The modernization of industry will be carried out in the most important sectors one by one. The rapid advancement of science and technology will be encouraged and particular attention will be focussed on the development of the information technology industry. Large number of personnel proficient in advanced technologies will be trained, true to the WPK's policy of nurturing talent.

In order to push ahead with this year's march forward, it is important to launch a great political and ideological campaign aimed at ensuring that a revolutionary atmosphere sweeps the whole of society.

It is the traditional way of the Korean people to turn out as one with ever-greater enthusiasm at every stage of the revolution. We will see to it that the indomitable spirit of crossing the rivers under a rain of shells during the fierce war of the 1950s and the revolutionary stamina shown in effecting the great Chollima drive from the war debris prevail over the whole country.

The vibrant present-day reality of the country requires the spread of the Torch of Ranam campaign across the country. Socialist construction sites, which are a hive of creation and innovation, will be permeated with Ranam's spirit of all-out effort aimed at advancing faster and its revolutionary work ethic of hitting targets at any cost. The country's youth will bring honour to themselves as the Supreme Commander's most active unit by performing heroic feats in the vanguard of the ongoing grand march.

The forward march we are now making is a sacred campaign to carry forward the glorious history and tradition of the Korean revolution.

Successfully building on those achievements is a sure guarantee of innovation and future prosperity. The undying exploits and traditions established by Kim Jong Il during his decades-long leadership of the Korean revolution will be the nation's guidelines in pushing forward the revolution and construction.

It is also necessary to bring about a radical new phase in the country's reunification effort this year, under the banner of national independence.

The June 15 North-South Joint Declaration was a landmark in Korean reunification. The lesson taught by last year's efforts made amidst ever-growing reunification zeal shows that achieving independent reunification hinges on the implementation of the joint declaration.

The shortcut to independent reunification requires the adoption of the basic spirit of the declaration and the proper implementation of it. The leitmotif of the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration is that the national reunification issue must be solved independently by the concerted effort of the Korean people, the masters of the process. All Koreans, holding higher the slogan "Reunify the country by the united efforts of our nation", must do everything with the common interests of the nation in mind, desist from sycophancy and dependence on outside forces, and bolster cooperation between the north and south. The south Korean authorities are advised to abandon the "arch-enemy" label given to the north, intended to stifle their fellow countrymen in conspiracy with outsiders, abolish the draconian and anti-reunification National Security Law, and refrain from treacherous acts that sacrifice national interests to those of outsiders.

All attempts to undermine the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration must be repulsed resolutely. Those supporting the joint declaration are patriots and those denying it are traitors to the nation. The Korean people must smash the moves of partitionists inside and outside the country to destroy the joint declaration and instead steer inter-Korean relations toward reconciliation, unity and reunion.

The maintenance of peace on the Korean peninsula and achievement of reunification through the policy of national independence require opposition to aggression and removal of the threat of war. At the moment, tensions on the Korean peninsula are escalating owing to US and south Korean hawks' anti-DPRK and anti-reunification manoeuvres committed under an anti-terrorism pretext. Under circumstances in which the risk of a new war is growing daily, peace and reunification are inconceivable,

All Koreans in the north, south and abroad must make persistent efforts to end the aggression and acts of military provocation of those opposed to reunification and maintain the peace and security of the nation. The imperialist warmongers must understand the Korean people's unshakeable desire for reunion, abandon their attempts to isolate and stifle the DPRK, and withdraw their aggressive forces from south Korea immediately.

There will be ups and downs on the road to national reunification. No force, however, can hold back the Korean nation's trend towards independent reunification.

The future of the Korean revolution, carrying forward the tradition of Mt. Paektu, is unquestionably bright.

Unryul Mine Yesterday and Today

THE Unryul Mine is one of the powerful iron ore production centers in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Situated on the west coast in the place called Kumsanpho, its fame has reached new heights after a long-distance conveyor belt was built.

New Legend Woven Around Kumsanpho

In the mid-1970s the Unryul Mine faced an uncertain future. It found it increasingly difficult to extract iron ore properly owing to difficulties with the removal of overburden, the rock that must be removed prior to the extraction of the ore.

Mining experts and officials at the mine made painstaking effort to solve the problem. However, the overburden continued to increase. Its volume became so enormous that it could not be removed even if 60 heavy-duty lorries spent five years transporting it.

After being briefed on the situation, leader Kim Jong Il produced a bold plan to remove the overburden by installing a conveyor belt and laying it straight into the sea beyond the shore.

News reached the people at Kumsanpho that land would be reclaimed from the sea by transporting overburden, and the plan began to be translated into reality.

The overburden-removal work at the Unryul Mine.

All the miners turned out for this huge task and the whole country gave active assistance to them.

Legendary tales came into being one after another.

In less than a year, long-distance conveyor belt was built, and the overburden began to be transported straight into the sea via the conveyor belt. This exciting reality came to be engraved upon the memory of the people as a new legend woven around Kumsanpho.

West Coast Undergoes Facelift

Twenty-seven years have passed since those memorable days. During the intervening period, the mine area has changed beyond recognition.

Most importantly, the workers at Kumsanpho have been able to extract iron ore unhindered, for the matter of overburden removal has been solved.

In the years of the "Arduous March", the most difficult period for our people, the conveyor belt was always in operation.

The amount of overburden transported by the conveyor belt so far totals tens of millions of tons.

Another notable change in the area has been the appearance of wide new tracts of land.

The constant supply of the removed overburden has linked up

the mainland and many islets with an embankment and a breakwater. 3,500 hectares of lands spreading as far as the eye can see have come into being, forcing out the sea from places where white-crested waves used to be seen rolling in all directions.

2,000 hectares of paddy fields have come into existence and salt now lies in mountainous piles here and there on the saltern covering hundreds of hectares.

The changes have also opened up new opportunities for marine transport.

In the course of the conveyor belt being extended from the mainland to the sea, islets have been linked up. Unfavorable conditions caused by topographical features such as an indented coastline and the existence of many islets have been overcome, and a bright vista has been opened up for the development of shipping.

Changes have also been brought about in the scenery of the area.

A broad and even highway was built on either side of the conveyor belt and the road is flanked on both sides by exuberant trees, each of the trunks now having a circumference of more than an arm's length.

Pheasants and roe deer have built nests. A nature reserve has been established. The reserve hosts a wide variety of fruit, honey boxes are on the increase and new forests are being created.

The conveyor belt continues to transport overburden without pause, a show of the miners' hard work in hearty response to the Torch of Ranam, and the changes it has wrought continue, too.

Nungum Islet will soon be linked with Sohae-ri.

Then several counties will be connected by a "sea route" and yet more new tracts of land will be created, adding another chapter to the story of Kumsanpho. ❑

The machine control room.

The long-distance conveyor belt stretching far into the sea.

The Role of Soldiers in Economic Construction

Korea recently finished the "Arduous March", which had lasted for the last several years. In this difficult period, however, the Korean people demonstrated their indomitable spirit by successfully completing massive construction projects such as the Anbyon Youth Power Station, Pyongyang-Hyangsan Tourist Road, and land-realignment in several provinces.

It is notable that most of the projects, the above-mentioned power station and tourist road in particular, were undertaken by the soldiers of the Korean People's Army.

KPA soldiers took responsibility for the more urgent and important construction projects, as well as the difficult ones, while maintaining the country's defences.

When the state proposed building pig farms in Taehongdan County to assist the efforts to increase potato farming there, the soldiers took the task upon themselves and successfully completed it in a short space of time.

Soldiers are also doing most of the difficult work on the huge Kaechon-Lake Thaesong waterway project, which will enable the vast expanses of fields in a grain-producing region on the west coast to be sufficiently irrigated.

In addition, KPA soldiers are playing a decisive role in improving living standards across the country.

The chicken farms and many other poultry bases that have recently been built across the country are the fruits of the soldiers' devoted labor.

Power stations, catfish farms, chicken farms, cattle farms, ostrich farms and many other facilities built by soldiers across the country are of such a high standard that they will not be considered inferior in the distant future.

The revolutionary spirit of soldiers displayed by KPA soldiers exerts a great influence upon the ideological and psychological state of the civilian population. It has become a source of inspiration stimulating them to further exertions.

The Hamhung people, despite the difficult national economic situation with everything in short supply, built the Hamhung Youth Goat Farm, which covers an area of more than 10,000 hectares. The farm has more than 50 branch farms, several small power stations, a milk processing workshop, welfare service facilities, and a more than 60km-long pasture ring road, all completed in a few years.

The construction of the Kwangmyongsong Salt Works was also difficult, but the constructors, though eating only boiled grains of maize because of the food shortage, created salt fields on the east coast of Korea, a feat which had been regarded as difficult to achieve in the past.

Now the People's Army soldiers and working people are making leaps and bounds in all sectors of the socialist economic construction. ❑

Torch of Ranam

The Ranam Coal Mining Machine Complex is a major manufacturer of coal mining machinery in the northern part of Korea. The complex, comprising a parent plant and some affiliated workshops, is an efficient business known across the country. The workers here have produced much of the coal mining equipment and other facilities needed for projects of national importance through their own efforts and skills. In the course of the complex's development, two factories with complete production processes have been built. Recently it developed ultra-modern machines of a high technical standard in a remarkably short period of time.

Leader Kim Jong Il visited the complex last August, and more recently spoke highly of the indomitable fighting spirit and manner of work of the Ranam workers, calling them examples to be followed by all the Korean people in the forward advance of the new century. He made the historic proposal that the whole country and nation follow the Torch of Ranam in the process of creation and remolding.

This is how the Torch of Ranam, a torch of progress and innovation signaling the nation to commence a 21st-century charge for the building of a powerful nation was kindled.

The torch is a successor to the Spirit of Kanggye and the Torch of Songgang (referring to the Songjin Steel Complex) that inspired victory in the "Arduous March" and the Forced March in the 1990s. It is an updated version of the triumphant spirit and torch of the previous decade.

The basis of the Torch of Ranam is the death-defying defense of leader Kim Jong Il and the thorough implementation of tasks given by the government, achieved by action rather than empty words or slogans.

The whole country and nation is following the Torch of Ranam.

Construction & Building Materials Branch Academy

The Construction & Building-Materials Branch Academy of the Academy of Sciences is a comprehensive construction science institute.

It was established as the Central Construction Science Institute in March Juche 47 (1958), later being renamed the Construction & Building-Materials Branch Academy.

Situated on the edge of the Nam River, a tributary of the River Taedong, it comprises the construction science information center, architectural engineering institute, construction mechanization institute, inorganic building-materials institute and all other construction institutes, a pilot plant and laboratories.

The branch academy's scientists have contributed greatly to the building of grand monumental structures, including the Grand People's Study House, the Tower of Juche Idea, the Arch of Triumph, International Friendship Exhibition, the West Sea Barrage, Kwangbok Street, Thongil Street and art theatres.

The method used to assemble the torch of the Tower of Juche Idea, which involved the use of swinging crane, won the gold prize at the international invention exhibition held in Bulgaria in October Juche 74 (1985). Hundreds of inventions made by the scientists have proved vital to the country's construction industry.

The scientists were thanked by leader Kim Jong Il many times.

They work to develop modern building materials using domestic supplies and also investigate new building methods.

Researchers at the inorganic building materials institute recently succeeded in producing very strong concrete pipes which are very useful in various sectors of the economy. The pipes were proposed for use in the current project to build apartments in the capital.

If concrete pipes are used to supply water instead of iron pipes, construction costs are lowered and the service life of the pipes is lengthened.

But this task was no easy job.

The water pipes must be strong enough to bear high water pressure, and should also ensure perfect sanitation.

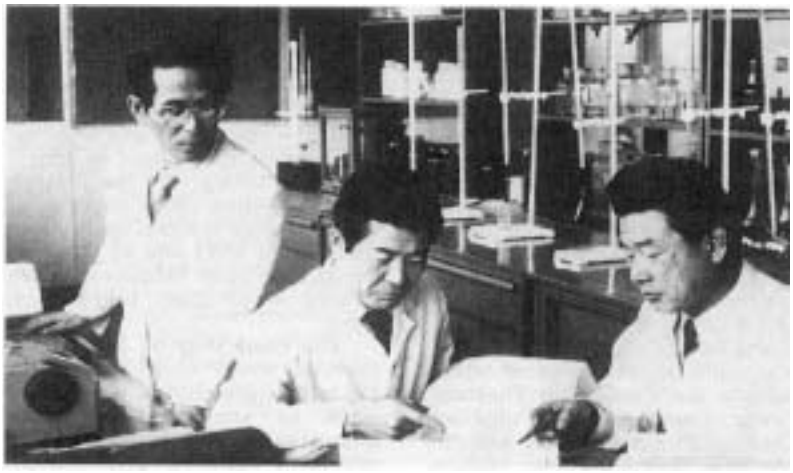
To meet these requirements the researchers conducted repeated tests. They finally completed the development of production methods for concrete pipes of different structures, sizes, and appearance. These methods are now being applied at construction sites.

They can be seen at the construction sites of the Kaechon-Lake Thaesong waterway and the housing construction sites in the capital.

These projects are now progressing amidst the concern of the whole country.

The scientists volunteer to go to construction sites to solve technical problems that arise.

The branch academy has hundreds of holders of academic degrees and titles such as academicians, professors, doctors, People's Scientists and Merited Scientists. Most of its scientists are graduates from the Pyongyang University of Construction and Building Materials Production. It systematically gives further training to its researchers. University graduates take the two-year postgraduate course at the academy while consolidating the knowledge acquired at university in order to enable them to conduct their work independently. It also has a reeducation program.



Researchers engaged in the task of creating a new kind of building material.

There are many families and couples, fathers and sons and fathers and daughters working together at the academy, part of the reason for it having dependable successors to its experienced staff.

The branch academy was awarded the Order of Kim Il Sung on its 40th anniversary in March Juche 87 (1998).

The scientists are devotedly continuing their research to solve the scientific and technical problems that face the country's major construction projects. ❑

Tackling the DPRK's Electric Power Problem

A Korea Today reporter recently interviewed Jon Se Ok, bureau director of the Ministry of Power and Coal Industries.

Reporter: I think that great importance is attached to the development of the power industry, as electricity is a major source of energy in the national economy.

Director: You are right. In the DPRK, primary importance has been attached to the development of the power industry and sustained efforts have been made to develop it.

Since the founding of our Republic, a lot of effort has been put into harnessing the country's abundant water-power resources by building many hydroelectric power stations, sparing no investment, with a view to unceasingly increasing the country's hydroelectric power generating capacity. In parallel with this, thermal power stations have been built in many places, examples of which include the Pyongyang Thermal-Power Complex, the Pukchang Thermal-Power Complex and the Sunchon Thermal-Power Station. Today, too, our efforts to tackle the problem are continuing through the simultaneous construction of both large and small power stations.

Reporter: Could you give me some details of the state of the electricity in our country in recent years?

Director: As you know, the DPRK had to make the "Arduous March" in recent years due to the intensified pressure of the imperialist allied forces led by the United States to isolate and stifle it, combined with natural disasters which occurred consecutively over several years.

This produced a very negative effect on the development of our power industry, like other sectors. To be frank with you, the economy is now suffering from a shortage of electric power and this is giving rise to many difficulties. The power supply is often cut off in various regions and electric locomotives in operation sometimes come to a halt. Let me cite some examples to illustrate the situation. Our country suffered from a lack of rain for several years. To make matters worse, serious damage was caused by a particularly severe drought last year. So water fails to fill the reservoirs and this creates serious difficulties in generating electricity. At the Wiwon Power Station the volume of water is four metres lower than the normal level and at the Taedonggang Power Station it is ten metres lower than the normal level.

The same may be said of the thermal power stations. If they are to produce electric power they must be supplied with large quantities of coal. But they have not been supplied with enough coal because production at the coal mines has gone down due to the insufficient supply of electricity and the flooding of many pits as a result of the severe weather conditions.

Reporter: Many countries are now satisfying the demand for electricity by making use of atomic power plants along with hydroelectric and thermal power stations. I should like to know to what extent the light water reactor (LWR) power station that is said to be under construction in the Kumho area of our country has progressed.

Director: Yes, indeed, you are right. The peaceful use of nuclear power has become a global trend.

Our country, too, has long pursued the development of a nuclear power industry. But the United States and the International Atomic Energy Agency manipulated by the Americans, absurdly picked fault with our nuclear power industry and obstructed its development. At that time we signed the DPRK-USA Agreed Framework on replacing our own graphite moderated reactor and its related facilities with LWR power stations provided by the US so as to demonstrate our integrity. But the US has not abided by its promise. It is stipulated in the Agreed Framework that the US should furnish the DPRK with LWR power station with a total generating capacity of 2 million kw by the year 2003. Next year is 2003, yet so far only foundation construction has started. Only the DPRK suffers from this delay. I wonder whether there is any other country in the world which goes back in its promises as faithlessly as the US. Accordingly, the power shortage is becoming more serious in our country.

We are not disheartened, however.

This year our country has put forward the task of solving the power problem in a revolutionary way.

We officials in the power industry will strive devotedly in every possible way to solve this problem, true to the intention of the state, and thus fulfill our responsibility.

Reporter: Thank you.

Jongju People's Hospital

From January Juche 42 (1953), when the war against the aggression of the US imperialists was at its height, Korea enforced the universal free medical care system. The system was guaranteed by the country's regular medical service.

Now every province, city and county has a People's Hospital as a base for the general medical service.

Jongju People's Hospital, which serves the people of Jongju City in North Phyongan Province, is one of them.

The hospital, which started functioning after the war and moved to a new, purpose-built facility in Juche 74 (1985), is situated in the center of the city.

It privides more than 10,000 square metres of floor space, including a three-storeyed outpatients' ward of 3,000 square meters, a four-storeyed inpatients' ward of 4,000 square meters and a two-storeyed drugstore of 1,800 square meters.

More than 350 beds are provided for inpatients.

The hospital has 25 departments, such as the internal treatment department, surgery department, pediatrics department, gynaecology department, dental department, Koryo medicine treatment department, family department and a laboratory.

It is staffed with well-qualified graduates of medical universities.

Great successes have been achieved by giving priority to the curing of various diseases. Medical workers at the hospital show great devotion to their jobs and they possess high-level skills.

In mid-August last summer, a 32-year-old woman who lived in the Pukjang-dong of the city was carried to the hospital in a serious condition.

At that time, her blood pressure and pulse were falling rapidly.

Several tests and discussions were held. The woman was diagnosed as suffering from an amniotic fluid embolism. The doctors were surprised, because the death rate from this disease was 89-90 % in the medical world.

The medical team, however, including the deputy director in charge of patient care and a doctor from the gynaecology department in charge of her health never let their spirits fall.

They saved her by transfusing their own blood into her body and using every kind of medicine.

After 32 hours, the patient had stabilized and was recovering. Even after that, the medical group continued to do their best to cure her completely.

There are a lot of examples like this.

At the end of last year, a worker, 20, from Ryongpho-ri, was severely wounded after an accident fall and taken to the hospital. He had suffered severe injuries to his internal organs, including a rupture of the spleen.

Despite his injuries, the doctors were determined to save the patient at all costs. After 120 days, he had made a complete recovery. When he left the hospital, he said, "The doctors spared no efforts to cure me and unsparingly administered treatments, including 3 litres of blood transfusions, antibiotics such as tetraolean, and cardiotonic drugs such as sterophanthin, hormone drugs such as prednisolonum, moreamin and dextrose. The cost of the treatment I received during the period of my hospitalization, was equal to 20 years' salary. The more I think of their efforts, the more I am impressed."

Our country is now undergoing continuous difficulties caused by natural disasters and the manoeuvres of the US imperialists to isolate it, but despite all of these challenges the state is still paying close attention and to the health of the people, and UN organizations such as the WHO and UNICEF, and several countries are giving humanitarian medical assistance. Appreciating all of this, the medical workers of the hospital are doing their best to fulfil their responsibility for the health of the people. ❑

Doctors at medical conference.

The dentists show great sincerity in their service at all times.

The Creative Director

IN the DPRK, many people shoulder arduous and difficult jobs by themselves and push ahead with their work in a bold and courageous manner. One of those hardworking workers is Jon Chol Ho (34), managing director of the Sosong District Water Supply and Drainage Management Company in Pyongyang.

Belief in latent resources

"Mr. Jon is the kind of man who has a firm belief in the company's resources and solves all problems by drawing on them instead of turning to others for help. His way of working always brings smooth solutions, and consistently results in success," says 0 Kil Son, the company's planning manager.

Jon was appointed managing director in September Juche 86 (1997) after finishing field practice following his studies at Pyongyang University of Construction and Building Materials Production. He was 29 at the time.

The start of his career coincided with the nation's "Arduous March", a time when it experienced great hardship due to the vicious moves of the imperialists to stifle the country and consecutive natural disasters. The nationwide economic difficulties seriously affected the water supply service. The shortage of electricity left water pumps operating only intermittently. Many facilities were unable to function for want of spare parts. The situation gnawed at his heart. He saw people suffering from the poor water service. Should they wait until the broken facilities were repaired by relevant state companies? Jon knew that the companies were experiencing difficulty procuring whatever they needed by their own efforts. Jon thought hard about the situation. If they expected to have everything provided by other bodies, there would be no need for creative managers.

Jon decided to repair the broken equipment by the company's own effort. After spending days and nights analyzing the situation, he drew up a plan. The biggest problem was how to get necessary materials.

Jon Chol Ho(left) consults on measures to ensure the full operation of facilities.

One day he called a meeting of the company's employees. Some were of the opinion that the job should be done when the situation was more favorable, a solution Jon could not vote for. His determination was so strong that a group was soon formed to do the work. He obtained all the materials for the work. Many a night he had to spend on the road to get even a small part. Sometimes he went to a certain factory and spent days doing manual work to help the local workers. Sometimes he went to repair workshops to learn maintenance methods and gain experience. Meanwhile he made designs for a good deal of the necessary parts. Over a few years he made a dozen technical innovation initiatives, a reflection of how much trouble he took to reinvigorate his company.

Now all the electric motors, pumps and other machines which had lain idle were in good order again, just like new ones. Many residents called at pumping stations to show their thanks for the resumption of normal water supplies.

A repairman, hearing the musical sound of a machine he had just mended, shook the director's hand, saying, "I've had no difficulty doing my job as you provided everything I needed."

Since then the company has been able to maintain all the equipment by their own efforts.

Pride in their jobs

"Mr. Jon, as director, directs much of his attention to ensuring that employees have pride in their jobs," says workteam leader Jon Kyong Suk.

The country's difficulties affected the company workers' life

as well, though transitionally.

One morning Jon became worried at absentee rates. If the workers failed to come to work, the water supply would suffer, he thought, and resolved to improve the food supply to the employees with the company's own efforts. When the work began, however, not a few problems cropped up, such as obtaining proper land to be cultivated and building materials.

The director rolled up his sleeves again and took the lead in the project. When cement, sand and other materials were in good supply, the construction went ahead forcefully. The result was that the company created a small, productive farm in the suburbs.

Meat and vegetables produced by the farm were soon rationed out among the workers, to their great pleasure. It soon led to more devoted work.

When they had to refurbish the company's base, Jon did not regard it as a simple task. He believed that a clean workplace would encourage them to serve the people conscientiously. After meticulous organization of the work, he buckled down to creating a model for the project. Machine and rest rooms were rearranged and a climber fence was planted. The model was then followed by other pumping stations. The company now leads the city in this respect.

The facelift of the workplaces enhanced the pride and sense of responsibility of the workers.

Besides these efforts, Jon has done a great deal more since he began to work there. His assiduous work has earned him the title of "our director" among his staff and "unusual director" among the local population.

As a deputy to the Pyongyang Municipal People's Assembly since two years ago, Jon is now working harder than ever to better ensure the convenience of the people. ❑

Valuable New Devices

Recently Korean scientists and technicians have been promoting the technical reconstruction of the national economy by achieving valuable scientific and technical successes of practical significance.

Scientists of the Academy of Sciences, working together with the department of the coal industry, cooperated with officials and technicians of various coal mines and published their research work on the coal mining method of horizontally divided floors. They invented a new-type excavator, shaking machine shovel and rod prop and introduced them into the mining process to promote increased coal production.

Scientists and technicians in the department of geology, working under difficult condition, succeeded in inventing an up-to-date exploration tool with their own efforts by producing a circuit design, carrying out necessary programming, and manufacturing various required components.

Scientists in the electricity industry, too, made a number of important innovations, including a method to raise the efficiency of generators and remake generators to fit in with medium and small power stations.

Scientists and technicians in the railway department developed an efficient railway command system and introduced significant innovations, realized the heavy-weight-carrying capability, mechanized railway work, and established better train services.

A number of achievements were also made in the fields of light industry and agriculture.

New Elements Discovered in Koryo Insam

Koryo insam (ginseng) is an indigenous plant of Korea known to the world since the Middle Ages.

Scientists at the Botanical Institute of the Biology Branch of the Academy of Sciences have recently discovered three new varieties of saponin which they believe are unique to Koryo insam and not yet known to the wider world. The discovery was made after the scientists conducted research on the plant using new technology.

The findings provided scientific proof that Koryo insam in Korea, the main producer of insam, is higher than any other insam in the world in medicinal efficacy.

On the basis of their success in analyzing the .components of insam, the scientists developed a method of extracting the new elements as well as more than 10 kinds of standard saponin, which are an important indicator of quality in insam products.

They also succeeded in extracting an anti-cancerous insam saponin element, which they had failed to do in the past due to the small quantities of efficacious elements.

Substitute Dried Blood, Effective in the Treatment of Anemia

Jon Chol Song, a researcher at the Cell and Gene Engineering Branch of the Academy of Sciences, has recently developed substitute dried blood, a hematic tonic highly effective in the treatment of anemia.

It is a hematic tonic which contains various microelements and compound vitamin from the components of animals' blood in their natural state.

The tonic is effective in maintaining good health and curing high and low blood pressure and the after effects of cerebral bruising, and the prevention of arteriosclerosis and nervous breakdown.

The microelements contained are F, Cu, Zn, Ni, Mg, Na, Cd, Co, Ph, Cl and the vitamins are B_1, B_2, B_6, P_p, C.

It also contains large quantities of amino acid, including asparaginic acid.

The tonic has no poisonous elements or side effects.

Story of Former Unconverted Long-Term Prisoners

The former unconverted long-term prisoners, who are respected as men of strong faith and will, now enjoy the happiness of a genuine life after enduring inhuman maltreatment during decades spent behind bars.

With Youthful Vigor

A Korean proverb goes that even an old tree blooms. This seems to be the case with me.

Born in Kochang County, North Jolla Province, I have not a single relative in Pyongyang. So, when I left south Korea, some asked me why I was going to Pyongyang instead of remaining in my native place.

I replied, "Why have I endured 34 years of suffering in prison? It is because I could not give up my faith. I have fought, yearning for a society where everybody leads an equal, good life, free from exploitation and oppression. I am therefore certain in my decision to go to Pyongyang."

As soon as I set foot in Pyongyang I was startled by the warm welcome of the citizens, who lined streets covering dozens of kilometers. We were like generals on a triumphant return.

I was regarded as a disabled man, but I, too, feel young again here in Pyongyang.

Under this socialist system, where those in their sixties live as vigorously as in their youth, and where 90th birthdays are celebrated as their 60th ones, I am also regain-

A Pine Tree and a Crane

My room has a picture of a pine tree and a crane which I myself drew. Visitors who look at the picture might think that I began to draw in my childhood.

It was, however, in my days in prison in south Korea that I developed a taste for drawing. I had nothing to use as a drawing tool, except worn-out cloth and coal ashes. I dissolved the ashes into a thick paste using water, allowing me to draw using a stick dipped in the solution.

In July Juche 83 (1994) I heard the unexpected sad news that President Kim Il Sung we regarded as the mainstay of our faith, had passed away. We were filled with sorrow.

Taking advantage of that sad event, the enemies began to further intensify their attempts to appease, deceive and threaten us. They tried to coerce us into recanting, saying that many people had died because of the natural disasters in the north, socialism had collapsed in Eastern Europe and the red flag had been pulled down in the Soviet Union and the north would soon follow suit.

Whenever I heard them say so, I was overwhelmed by a feeling of indignation. I would strengthen my resolve to be true to my revolutionary principles and continued my drawing with greater effort. Unable to achieve their objective, the enemies had no option but to set us free. Yet they never ceased to keep watch on us.

Around that time it was reported that the Republic, despite its difficult situation, had succeeded in launching the artificial satellite Kwangmyongsong 1, an integration of ultra-high technologies. This wonderful news gave me new strength and courage, and made me confident that the soul of Korea, which might be broken but would never yield, remained intact. I pictured the way the people in the north were steadfastly holding on to the red flag of socialism while suffering unprecedented pain.

After repeatedly considering how to depict their spirit in a picture, I decided to draw the tiger of Mt. Paektu. I regard it as the most precious fruition of my art.

I still keep the picture, having brought it with me when we came

ing my youthful vigor.

My wife created "Our Rhythm Is Good", and other songs that cater to the aesthetic sense of our people. Since getting married to me, she has invariably been engaged in her art. I, though a novice, often give her advice on her works.

I am old in physique, but in sprit I am in my twenties or thirties.

The tonics sent by leader Kim Jong Il enabled us to strengthen our bodies and spirit so that we now fully enjoy the youth we lost in the past. Singing and dancing with great joy, I remember the calligraphy given to me by Mr. An Yong Gi, another former unconverted long-term prisoner. It reads:

"We can live without the sun in the sky, but not without it in our mind. We live respecting General Kim Jong Il as the sun in our mind, despite the rain and storms."

I will dedicate myself body and soul to the accomplishment of the sacred cause of national reunification, full of the youthful vigor I recovered thanks to the leader.

Ko Kwang In

to Pyongyang thanks to leader Kim Jong Il's invitation to return to the Republic.

Looking at my wife and children living in a luxury house, having been reunited with them after decades of separation, I fell into deep thought.

The leader showed his love for all of us, men who had suffered from cold and disease in tiny cells where we could not properly stretch our legs.

What then should I do? I thought and resolved to create a picture reflecting the thoughts of the unconverted long-term prisoners. I pledged to myself, "I will present to leader Kim Jong Il an everlasting picture of a pine tree that boasts of its mettle with its year-round greenness and a crane symbolizing longevity."

Hearing of my idea, the others showed their sincerity, bringing cloth and other necessary materials. With their sincere support, I am now working on the picture.

Ri Kyong Chan

I Am a Happy Man

Now I once again experience happiness in our Republic, the happiness which I had longed for over several decades.

17 months have already passed since I returned to Pyongyang, amidst a sea of flowers, but it seems like it was only yesterday.

I had been imprisoned for 37 years, more than 13,500 days, during which I was completely deprived of my freedom. Whenever I sat alone in a small cell surrounded by a very high wall, I always missed the five years of happiness I had previously enjoyed in the Republic.

Born into a poor peasant's family in Hamhung City, South Hamgyong Province, I moved from place to place to find work before I had reached adulthood. I worked hard only out of sheer determination to make enough money to support my dwindling family and provide my younger brother with an education, but it was in vain. I only experienced humiliation and maltreatment, the result of my nationality.

It was only after Korea's liberation (August 1945) that I began to lead a new life. I completed a course of education while working at a factory, and led a happy life as a master of both the factory and state. I was also married, and then experienced the joy of fatherhood when my wife gave birth to a precious son.

This dreamlike life lasted only five years before the US imperialists unleashed the Korean War (June 1950-July 1953), which brought great personal sorrow to me. My brother died in the struggle against the US aggressors, and my mother and wife were killed by the bombardment from the enemies' naval guns.

The war confirmed my belief that we had to drive the aggressors out of this land if we were to build a society where all of us would be able to live happily.

I could unyieldingly hold on to my faith in that prison cell in south Korea because I never forgot the happy days I had personally experienced.

It was only when I became a gray-haired old man that I was released from the prison in which I had been put as a handcuffed young man.

Later I, no, more than 60 unconverted long-term prisoners, heard the unexpected news that the Republic had invited us to return to Pyongyang.

Only recently we were called "condemned criminals" or "lifers", but now we are respected as national heroes and men of strong faith and will.

The state provided each of us with a luxurious home and even silk bedding and blankets and clothes for every season, in order to allow us to enjoy the happiness that we had been denied for so long. It also saw to it that we, together with our families, toured Paektu, Myohyang and Kuwol mountains and many other famous spots to spend happy and pleasant days.

We are truly happy men. I, full of pride in having found contentment again, will dedicate the rest of my life to the endeavor to reunify the country.

Kim Myong Su

The Motherland to Which He Returned in His Last Years

(Continued from the previous issue)

2. CHOICE

Years of sad and tearful living in exile had drifted by.

As he had left south Korea without making his whereabouts known, he had no visitors to receive.

And as agents of the south Korean ANSP (Agency for National Security Planning) were desperately trying to locate his whereabouts, Choe Tok Sin always remained indoors for fear of discovery. The garden of his house was as silent as a graveyard at all times. Surprisingly, two letters were delivered to his lonely house.

One was from the northern half and the other from the southern half of his divided homeland.

He was afraid of opening the letters.

Their discovery of his whereabouts, when he was living in seclusion, cut off from the outside world, and their sending of letters to him suggested that both sides intended to settle the past with him.

(I wonder what kind of punishment they are going to inflict upon me, an old wanderer...)

Pursued by uneasiness and apprehension, he tore open the letter from the northern half of Korea.

The letter was to the effect that figures of all strata in the north and the south of Korea and abroad should get together to have talks in connection with the new proposal for national reunification put forward at the Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The letter invited him to attend the talks on the country's reunification.

What do the people in the north wish me to do? Do they think I can do something for the reunification of the country?!... Afraid that they might make him a political victim, he carefully read through the letter, sent in the joint name of political parties and social organizations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, with his nerves on edge.

Detailed at length in the letter was a new national reunification proposal for founding a Federal Republic through the establishment of a unified national government, on condition that the north and the south recognize and tolerate each other's ideas and social systems. It would be a government in which the two sides were represented on an equal footing and under which they exercised regional autonomy, with equal rights and duties.

The new reunification proposal clarified the matter of forming a supreme national federal assembly with an equal number of representatives from north and south and an appropriate number of representatives of overseas nationals. It stated that the assembly would organize a standing committee to guide the regional governments in north and south and to administer all the affairs of the federal state. The proposal also suggested that the unified government of the federal state would discuss and decide on political affairs, national defence issues, foreign affairs and other problems of common concern related to the interests of the country and the nation as a whole.

During his visit to the homeland, Choe Tok Sin climbed Mt. Paektu, regarded as the embodiment of the soul of the Korean Nation.

This role should be performed on the principle of fairness and in accordance with the desire for national unity, cooperation and reunification, pushing forward the work of uniform development of the country and the nation and realizing unity and cooperation between north and south in all spheres. Under the proposal, the unified government of the federal state would respect the social systems and the policies of the respective administrations, all parties and groups and every section of the people in north and south, and prevent one side from imposing its will on the other. The regional governments in north and south would be allowed to follow independent policies, within limits consistent with the fundamental interests and demands of the whole nation, and strive to narrow the differences between north and south in all spheres and achieve uniform development of the country and the nation. The matter federal state would be called the Democratic Federal Republic of Koryo after a unified state that once existed in Korea and is well known to the world.

Although Choe tried to find faults in the proposal, examining every word and phrase, he was forced to concede that it was an impeccable new reunification proposal.

The passage calling for the achievement of the coun-

Quotes from Kim Jong Il

"The homeland is not simply a country or a hometown where someone was born and brought up, but a country where the genuine life of people and the happiness of all generations to come are guaranteed."

"Without the homeland and the nation, man's life is meaningless, and the destiny of a man separated from the destiny of the country and the nation cannot be thought of."

try's reunification under a federation formula, on condition of recognizing and tolerating the different ideas and social systems that exist in the north and the south, was enough to captivate Choe's heart.

The suggestion that the Korean nation could reunify without bloodshed was not only a revelation, but also a just and fair proposal acceptable to anyone, irrespective of whether they are in the north or south and whether they are a communist or a nationalist, a theist or an atheist.

The letter was pervaded with sincerity and patriotic ardor. Moreover, the sending of a letter of invitation to such a guilty person as he, inviting him to participate in discussion of the reunification issue, despite the fact he had once levelled his gun at north, standing in the forefront of the anti-communist movement and who had insisted upon reunifying the country by prevailing over communism through UN support, could not but be attractive to him.

After reading the letter from the north over and over again, he shouted inwardly: I can go to the north, I can visit my birthplace!

However, he could not dispel his apprehension over whether the people in his native village would forgive him. With a look of uneasiness on his face, he opened the letter from the southern part of his country.

The letter was to the effect that they would be much obliged if he would attend the commemorative functions for "ROK army day" as a war veteran. Their heinous intention was obvious. Needless to say, this invitation was aimed at fanning war fever among the men of the south Korean puppet army and egging them on to confrontation with the north by making retired generals like him attend the commemorative functions with a view to perpetuating the division of Korea.

"What do they take Choe Tok Sin for? Why on earth do they want to use me as a sacrificial offering for the anti-reunification forces?" Unable to control his rising anger toward the south Korean military fascist clique, he sprang to his feet, striking the round table in front of him with his fist.

The two letters of invitation he received from north and south were diametrically opposite from each other, like black and white. One called for reunification, the other, division.

Calling for national reunification was a genuine act of patriotism. Calling for division was an act of treachery.

"Which road should I take, the road of patriotism or the road of treachery to the country?" he said to himself.

Choe made his choice without hesitation. He tore to pieces the letter from the south Korean military fascist clique. Not content with this, he gathered together the pieces of paper and set fire to them with a match. Gazing at the blazing fire, he confirmed his resolve not to set foot on the soil of south Korea again before the reunification of the country.

His thoughts were becoming more inclined to the northern half of Korea all the time.

However, until that time the DPRK had been an unknown world to him, surrounded by suspicion. It seemed a dreadful world. But one day, he received unexpected news, news that gave him a new understanding of the DPRK.

It was brought by Choe Hong Hui, president of the International Taekwon-Do Federation, who had been to the DPRK as leader of a delegation of performers of Taekwon-Do (the Korean art of self-defense).

Choe Hong Hui was the most trustworthy and the closest friend of Choe Tok Sin. He had served the south Korean army together with Choe Tok Sin for a long period of time and had studied at a military academy in the United States together with him. He was now living in exile in Canada.

No sooner had Choe Hong Hui entered the room than he shouted, "Elder brother and sister-in-law! Your father passed away after spending the last years of his life in comfort under the profound care of the DPRK authorities. He even earned the title of patriotic-minded figure. Do you hear what I say?"

"?!"

What Choe Hong Hui said was quite unexpected. It seemed to him that his whole body had become stiff. Until that time he had not even known whether his father was alive or not, except for the fact that his father had gone to the north, following the People's Army, during the Fatherland Liberation War.

Understanding what Choe Hong Hui had said, he felt as if he had seen his living father flash before his eyes.

Choe Tong 0, his father, was a nationalist who had joined the anti-Japanese independence movement when he was young. He was once the headmaster of Hwasong Uisuk School, where President Kim Il Sung studied for a while, and was active as a Chondoist representative to the Provisional Government of Korea in Shanghai.

Choe Tong 0 was a patriotic-minded person who, before the country's liberation, made efforts to achieve the unity of those engaged in the independence movement. After the country's liberation, he attended the Joint Conference of Representatives of Political Parties and Social Organizations from the North and South held in Pyongyang at the invitation of President Kim Il Sung and conducted activities to implement the policy of a national unified front set out by the President.

Upon receiving the news of his father who had shown deep love for him and made painstaking efforts to set him on the right track, Choe Tok Sin could hardly contain his

(Continued on page 34)

The Korean Seas

Korea is bounded by sea on three sides (east, west and south). The peninsula coastline is over 8,000 kilometers, and the total length of coastline when some 4,200 islands are included is 18,000 kilometers or more.

There are marked variations in the indentation of the coastline. The west coast is 2.67 times more indented than the east, and the south coast is 2.5 times more indented.

Korea is a leading maritime nation in terms of the ratio of the length of the coastline to its territorial area and the ratio of the area of territorial waters, economic waters and continental shelves to the territorial area.

Korean seas lie between the subarctic and subtropical zones and between the Eurasian continent, the largest continent on the globe, and the Pacific Ocean, the largest ocean in the world. Their oceanic conditions and sea resources are rich in variety and their seasonal changes are distinct. Warm currents such as the Korean east sea current and the west Japanese sea current (Tsushima sea current), and cold currents such as the north Korean sea current and the Maritime Province sea current flow into the East Sea of Korea and mix with each other. As a result, warm-water fish and cold-water fish can be found in the same place. There are also many kinds of non-migratory fishes. The East Sea of Korea provides an ideal fishing ground in all seasons.

The West Sea of Korea is shallow, and many Korean and Chinese rivers empty into it. It has wide, developed flatlands and is rich in fishstocks as well as crustaceans such as oysters, clams, trough shells and razor clams. The South

Sea of Korea belongs to the subtropical zone and is warm all the year round, providing a place for fish to winter.

The Korean seas are home to 340 species of mollusks, 850 species of fishes, scores of species of coelenterate and crustaceans, 65 species of echinodermata, over 10 species of sponge, and dozens of species of seaweed and more than 10 species of sea animals.

The long coastline and thousands of islands are rich in tidal and wind energy resources. The west coast of Korea has a large tidal range and is greatly indented, and it provides many good places for building tidewater-power stations requiring only small investment.

There are many world-famous mountains, such as the Kumgang and Chilbo Mountains, and numerous sandy beaches, medicinal and hot springs, bathing resorts, angling sites and nature reserves, and holiday homes for working people and camps for schoolchildren are located at various places.

The Korean seas provide good conditions for foreign trade and sea traffic. The East and West Seas have many good ports that remain ice-free in winter, providing bases for shipping to the Eurasian continent and the littoral countries of the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

Professor Kim Tong Il

Kim Il Sung University

Lunar New Year's Day

From olden times, Koreans and other Asian nations have celebrated Lunar New Year's Day as a festive holiday.

It is a time-honored tradition for Koreans to celebrate Lunar New Year's Day as the same pleasant day as Solar New Year's Day. Various decorations are put up on the day to add to the festive mood, and people change into their best clothes before going to meet and exchange New Year's Day greetings with their relatives and friends. The day is spent playing folk games and eating traditional dishes.

Houses, streets and villages are also cleaned and tidied to celebrate the occasion, a custom that has been observed by our people from time immemorial.

In the morning, people pay New Year's visits to relatives and their seniors.

Children in new attire also go to give New Year's greetings to adults, and the adults return the sentiment before serving holiday dishes to the youngsters.

Special dishes prepared on Lunar New Year's Day include huint-

tok (white rice cake), ttokguk (meat soup with pieces of rice cake), siruttok (steamed rice cake), mandu (stuffed buns), yakbap (glutinous rice mixed with honey, dates, and chestnuts), and chalttok (rice cake made of glutinous rice), along with processed fish, sliced boiled meat and sikhye (a dish made from fermented ingredients), and drink. Huinttok, ttokguk, yakbap and kangjong are regarded as indispensable food for the day.

Ttokguk is the most typical, and people ask children how many bowls of it they have eaten in order to see how old they are.

As a tasty, nutritious soup with slices of rice cake boiled in meat stock flavored with soy sauce, ttokguk is regarded as a unique New Year's Day dish that Koreans have particularly enjoyed for centuries.

On Lunar New Year's Day, Korean women would prepare ttokguk and many other traditional dishes in order to create a more harmonious and pleasant mood in their families.

Traditional games further decorate the day, including yut, which can be played by anyone, men's chess, women's seesawing, and children's kite-flying, top-spinning, shuttlecock game, and sleighing. ❑

The Jaenggang Dance

The Jaenggang dance is one of the folk dances unique to Korea. During its performance, dancers wear metal bracelets and making pleasant rhythmic sounds.

From olden times, Korean women used to have a dance with joy after a bumper autumn harvest. When performing this dance they wore metal ornamental bands on their wrists which would make a sound resembling "Jaenggang Jaenggang" (clinking) to heighten the artistic effect of the dance. Hence the name Jaenggang dance.

Conspicuous for its vigorous and rhythmic movements, the dance spread widely in the western and southern coastal areas of Korea.

A fresh and characteristic artistic representation of the Jaenggang dance was provided in the modern era on the basis of lyric dance movements.

It consists of five parts; the first part shows women dancers running onto the stage with unfurled fans in their hands and forming a group at the centre. Part two features their dancing to the tune of *tharyong.* (a variety of Korean folk song), carrying their fans in their belts and making tinkling sounds. The third part depicts the women sublimating the feelings for the beautiful mountains and rivers of their country which they fostered in the second part. The fourth part shows the Jaenggang dance performed in *otmori* rhythm (one of the rhythms of Korean national music), while the final part contains a fast fan dance.

In the Jaenggang dance, the dancers' manner of dressing blends well with the props, making the dance all the more attractive.

In particular, the choreography of the powerful and spirited dance, based on the active use of fans and a sound-making prop worn on the wrist, gives a rhythmic depiction of the stout-hearted, optimistic and passionate character of Korean women.

This folk dance, an expression of joy and boundless happiness, is loved by the Korean people as it inspires them with its strength and courage and instills in them passion and optimism. ❑

With Mass Cultural Development

Han Yong Bin on the stage of a national singing contest for working people.

Literature and the arts are created and enjoyed by the popular masses.

Korea now stresses the need to encourage the development of mass literature and the mass arts.

This requires all members of society to be citizens of high cultural attainment and artistic qualifications, as required by a developing society.

The most conspicuous of the endeavours is the national singing contest of working people, which began to be held and televised from the 1980s. It is attended by ordinary working people, from across the country.

It was not until the third event that it was separately conducted for industrial workers, agriculrural workers, farm workers and university students. They staged solos, duets, mixed part singings, part singings and other different forms.

Han Yong Bin, 57, a resident of the sixth neighborhood unit, Jangsuwon-dong, Samsok District, Pyongyang, also took part in the contest, having gained a nationwide reputation.

Whenever he worked in the fields he, an affable and cheerful person, would sing folk songs, stimulating the spirit of his co-farm workers. During breaks, he would give recitals at the side of the field. He was never out of breath, even after singing ten songs in succession.

Such was his ability, the farmers unanimously encouraged him to take part in the contest.

In his debut at the contest he sang "Let's Go Picking Mulberry Leaves", "The Ox Bells", "Let's Go, Brindled Ox" and the like, which sing of the life of farm workers and cater to all tastes, creating a sensation. He took second place in the event.

Later, he actively engaged in performances aimed at inspiring increased production, singing 17 serial folk songs.

On Army Day he joined a people's delegation on a visit to a KPA unit and sang songs to congratulate the soldiers, winning great admiration from them. He also sang at important construction sites such as Pyongyang-Kaesong Motorway and Kwangbok and Thongil streets and at factories and enterprises like the Chollima Steel Complex and the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex.

The workers of the two complexes were so delighted by Han's singing that they demanded several encores.

The year before last he participated at the contest for the second time, which was of great importance as it was held on the 55th anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Competition was tough because the contestants had all taken part in previous rounds of the contest.

Han, however, won popularity by singing "The Song of the Sea" and "Let's Go, Brindled Ox" at the preliminary on his way to the final, which he won by singing the old Korean folk song "Yongchon Arirang" and "Let's Go Picking Mulberry Leaves."

Han also completed a correspondence course of Pyongyang University of Music and Dance, and is now able to arrange music.

Whenever he is asked the secret of his wonderful singing, he replies, "I owe my talent to the reality of our society, a society that encourages mass cultural activities."

He is still full of vigor, dedicating his energy to the development of mass arts while taking charge of activities at the cultural center of a large hospital. ❑

(Continued from page 31)

excitement. He was eager to rush to the northern half of Korea, which had held his father warmly in its embrace, and he felt a strong urge to visit his father's grave.

What excited him more than anything else was Choe Hong Hui's remark that the DPRK lets bygones be bygones and treats every visitor with sincerity.

His previously sinking heart began to beat strongly again, full of hope.

1 can visit the north!

This was his inner thought. But a mere desire did not justify a visit to north. How could he go there? The thought caused the sinking feeling to return. When he thought of visiting the north, bringing with him the letter of invitation, he felt down-heartened, as he had no qualifications for participating in the discussion of the reunification issue.

He spent several days in agonized contemplation before he sent the following telegram to Pyongyang, expressing his true feelings:

"I am grateful for the letter of invitation from Pyongyang. I am eagerly looking forward to the immediate holding of reunification talks. But as I am an unsuitable person to participate in the talks to be attended by distinguished patriotic-minded people, I would like you to approve of my quietly calling at my native village to visit the grave of my father."

A few days later, he received a reply from Pyongyang welcoming his visit to his native village.

(To be continued)

Koreans Win Asian Championships

In October last year, the 9th Asian Roller Skating Championships was held in Taipei, China.

Top competitors from six countries and regions of Asia participated.

The Korean men's roller-hockey team won their event, bringing glory to their country by demonstrating their high-level skills.

They competed against teams from India, Chinese Taipei, Macao, south Korea and Japan. In each game, the Korean players, with an obstinate combative spirit and constant attacking play, swept past all their opponents by taking the initiative and utilizing various playing methods. They were matched against the Japanese team in the final, emerging victorious after a 5-0 win.

The team was awarded gold medal as the Republic's flag, with its blue and red colors, was raised to the sound of the national anthem.

Pak Ki Bom (attacker) of Korea was awarded the trophy for the best player at the championships.

Spectators and hockey experts admired the Korean roller-hockey team for the remarkable progress they made, seemingly unnoticed.

The coaches of the Indian and Japanese teams, acknowledging their defeats, stated that the Korean players not only had great skills, but also a strong sporting spirit and inexhaustible energy.

Ordinary citizens and sportsmen in Pyongyang turned out at the railway station to warmly welcome the players on their glorious return to the homeland.

Captain Ri Sang Bom said, "We'll not become complacent because of this victory. We'll sweat blood in practice and make every effort to improve our organization, tactics and skills further so as to enhance national prestige by obtaining good results at international competitions." ❑

A scene from the match.

The Winter Vacation for Korean's Schoolchildren

Korean children enjoy the winter vacation very much.

Schools across the country pay attention to ensuring that schoolchildren consolidate their knowledge during this vacation to enable them to apply it well in practice.

During the vacation, schoolchildren have study groups in their residential districts.

The study groups allow schoolchildren to study together, ice-skate and skip and play other games under the guidance of their teachers and parents.

Vacation programmes for children are carefully organized by schools in association with the youth league and children's union organizations, in order to help them to spend their vacation enjoyably and effectively .

Study groups are run more briskly at the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace and other schoolchildren's palaces and halls across the country during holidays, and public and cultural education institutions organize a number of activities for children.

The Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League organizes many colorful activities at these times. Youth league organizations arrange the march along the snow-covered road on January 17 every year, the anniversary of the youth league.

Schoolchildren march with knapsacks bearing the slogans "Bravery", "Boldness" and "Comradeship" on their backs and fly flags at the head of their columns in the course of which they conduct a variety of activities such as inter-school or interclass chorus contests and other forms of recreations.

This march is made on foot or on skis, depending on the local conditions.

The most interesting games for children during their vacation are folk games.

These games reach their zenith with the national schoolchildren's folk-game contests arranged on the lunar January 1.

The main contests are kite-flying (high flying, kite-skills and kite show), topspinning, skating and shuttlecock-kicking. They are contested in eliminators, semifinals and finals.

Participants in the contests display tremendous enthusiasm.

Ri Kyong Sik, from the Panwol Senior Middle School in the capital city of Pyongyang, distinguishes himself in the kite high-flying event. He devotes most of his spare time to kite-making and boasts of his study of almost all well-known books of Korea and the rest of the world on kites.

Ri says that he met many aviation dynamics scientists to get their advice, and during the recent kite-flying contest he made up his mind to become an aeroplane-maker.

Despite the bitter cold, the children try to fly their kites skillfully at great heights, causing grown-ups to stop walking in order to watch them.

Supporters count as contestants kick the shuttlecock with one foot in time, which deeply impresses the watching crowd.

Children also use the vacation to visit socialist construction sites to perform songs and dances to encourage the builders of socialism in their work. They also collect waste materials, help railway workers and do other good deeds for the country. ❑

Koreans Take Top Prize at Chinese Acrobatics Festival

The 8th Wuqiao International Acrobatics Festival of China was held last year.

Around 300 top acrobats from ten countries and regions, including the DPRK, China, Russia, Mexico, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Canada and the USA, participated in the event.

Korean acrobats, in the display titled "Flying Girls", performed a number of stunts including quadruple somersault, triple flip-flap and three pirouettes with a flip-flap, enjoying the highest praise of the audience.

Created by the Pyongyang Circus, "Flying Girls", filled with a courage, delight and romance, was recognized as a masterpiece of mystery and awarded the supreme prize, the Gold Lion Prize.

Another Pyongyang Circus' acrobatic display "Balancing on the Rope" and the juggling act, "Trick with pigeons" were awarded the Bronze Lion Prize.

The Largest Nuclear Base in the Far East

The nuclear crisis still persists on the Korean peninsula. The US holds the switch of the nuclear time bomb that permanently threatens the north of Korea.

The US is the author of the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula. The US brought nuclear weapons into south Korea to make the south an advance base in its efforts to dominate the whole of Korea and Asia.

The US administration formally announced its unilateral abrogation of Paragraph 13-d of the Korean Armistice Agreement in June 1957. This paragraph prohibits the introduction of operational equipment and materials or weapons into the Korean peninsula from beyond the confines of Korea. With its breach of this agreement, the US began to turn south Korea into a nuclear base in real earnest.

In July 1957, one month after its announcement, the US declared that its forces in south Korea would be armed with nuclear weapons, and in January 1958 brought into south Korea "Honest John" nuclear missiles, 280 mm atomic guns, nuclear bombs to be carried by fighter-bombers, various other nuclear bombs, missile-equipped nuke heads and remote-controlled nuclear mines—hundreds of nuclear weapons in all.

South Korea became a huge nuclear base of the US from the mid-1970s after the US was defeated in the Vietnam war.

In the 1970s the US deployed 192 nuclear bombs for F-4s, 152 nuclear shells for 155mm guns, 144 "Nike-Hercules" nuclear warheads, 88 "Honest John" nuclear warheads and 12 "Sergeant" nuclear warheads. The US also brought into south Korea over 70 units of improved "Hawk" guided missiles and 723 units of rockets. In 1983-84 it deployed 48 F-16s, neutron bombs and various nuclear bombs in south Korea. Proof was provided by the US newspaper *New York Times*, which exposed the fact that eight-inch guns capable of firing neutron shells, known as the devil's weapon of the 20th century, were deployed first in south Korea.

The US has nuclear bases for its air force in Osan, Kunsan and Kwangju and nuclear weapons supply bases in Taegu, Jinhae, Pusan and Phohang in south Korea.

In 1976 the US National Defense Information Center announced that the US had deployed 725 nuclear weapons in south Korea.

On May 2, 1983 the US newspaper *Washington Post* stated that the nuclear weapons deployed by the US in south Korea numbered 1,000.

According to the announcement of the 125th session of the south Korean National Assembly in 1985, 1,720 US nuclear weapons were deployed in south Korea, which accounted for 55 per cent of US nuclear weapons deployed in the Asia-Pacific region. Experts say that this deployment is the densest in the world, four times greater than in the NATO region. It is not without reason that world's media say south Korea is the largest nuclear advance base in the Far East, the largest depot of US nuclear weapons.

Since 1976 the US had staged the Team Spirit nuclear war joint military exercise targeted against the north of Korea every year, constantly enlarging its scale.

Today the Korean peninsula is the most dangerous potential flashpoint on the globe.

The US can decide singly to use nuclear weapons in south Korea and once it makes a decision it can start a

US troops in marine intrusion exercise.

nuclear war at any time.

Whenever they had the opportunity, the US government and brass hats stated without hesitation that they would use nuclear weapons.

Former US President Truman said twice, in April 1949 and May 1950, before the outbreak of the Korean war that when they considered it necessary for US security, they would not hesitate to use atomic bombs.

Eisenhower, successor to Truman, said in May 1953 that "to take more positive action against the enemy, it is necessary to extend the war theatre out of the confines of Korea and use atomic bombs according to the proposal of the Joint Chiefs of Staff."

In March 1965, then US Secretary of Defense McNamara said at the US House Appropriations Committee that "there is no restriction as to the use of nuclear weapons, if necessary, for US interests."

In May 1975, then US Secretary of Defense Schlesinger said at a press conference that if a war broke out in Korea, "the US will not hesitate to use tactical nuclear weapons," a statement that received a worldwide censure.

The 1984-1985 US defense guideline says that four days after the outbreak of a conflict in the Middle East the US will make a forestalling nuclear attack on north Korea; in May 1987 the US Strategic and International Affairs Study Center staged a nuclear war game, based on notional war on the Korean peninsula.

In June 1993 the DPRK-US talks produced the DPRK-USA Joint Statement, a non-aggression declaration. The statement makes it clear they will refrain from using nuclear weapons or other forces to threaten the other side. To be true to this principle the US should have withdrawn its nuclear weapons from south Korea, closed its bases there, and discontinued military rehearsals. But the US reexamined the "plan of operations 5027", which was to have been put into action between 1993 and 1994, and instead produced a greatly amended version, "plan of operations 5027-98", a plan for war against the north of Korea. It aims to put it into effect by committing vast forces 140 times greater in number than it sent to the Balkan War.

The many nuclear weapons in south Korea and the US nuclear war exercises there constantly threaten the peace and the very existence of the Korean people, and are seriously jeopardizing Asian peace and security.

The US must deeply consider the consequences of its adventurous nuclear threat, immediately scrap its plan for nuclear war and pull its nuclear weapons and forces out of south Korea.

Sung Ji Hye

Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere

The Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere was an aggressive fantasy of creating a monopolistic "sphere of influence" in Japan's colonies put forward by the imperialists in the 1940s. In November 1938, the first Konoe Cabinet issued a "statement concerning the establishment of a new order in East Asia." This was supplemented and expanded by the "guidelines for basic national policy" and a "guideline plan for coping with changes in the world situation" issued by the second Konoe Cabinet in July 1940. These developed into the aggressive ambition to form the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere. The concrete plan for establishing the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity sphere was mapped out by the War Research Institute, which was under the control of the Japanese military authorities. Its main idea was to build a "Great Co-Prosperity Sphere" in Southeast Asia in three stages. In addition, the Japanese imperialists dreamed of establishing the "Greater East Asia Commercial Sphere", comprising the Middle and Near East, Africa and the Americas, by using this plan as a stepping stone. With the coming of the 1940s, the plan entered the stage of full-scale realization. In November 1942 they set up the Greater East Asia Ministry by putting together the countries under their occupation. In February 1943 they formed a council to deliberate on the building of a Greater East Asia.

In November that year, the Japanese convened a Greater East Asia Meeting and issued a Greater East Asia Joint Declaration, which was called a "great charter". The imperialists tried to realize their aggressive ambition to establish the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere but the plans perished in the flames they had themselves kindled. However, they have never given up their dream of building a Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere. The Japanese imperialists have reappeared as a dangerous, aggressive force forcing Korea and other neighboring states to sharpen their vigilance against them.

Reckless Act Hastening Japan's Ruin

The kind of noisy debate which can usually be observed only on the eve of the outbreak of war is being kicked up in Japan after the terrorist attack on the United States and its retaliatory operation in Afghanistan.

As soon as the incident occurred in the US, Japan leapt into the debate that raged over the consequences, as if it had eagerly awaited such an event, talking loudly about "threat" and "assistance". Japan examined the possibility of relaxing the regulations covering the use of weapons by the Japanese Self-Defense Forces and allowed the overseas dispatch of Maritime SDF warships.

However, the debate in Japan has not struck a chord with world public opinion, with most people wondering why the Japanese government is in such a hurry.

With the passage of time, everything is becoming clearer.

Some political figures called for the amendment of article 9 of the Japanese constitution, which stipulates the renouncement of war.

The Japanese government and the majority grouping in parliament decided on the final blueprint for the revision of the Self-Defense Forces Act. Although they had submitted this draft bill to the Diet, high-ranking political figures from the ruling party in Japan began to openly question the need for such a bill, insisting that there was no need to gain the prior approval of the Diet in dispatching the SDF abroad.

Under these unusual circumstances, legislation permitting special measures to combat terrorism was finally railroaded through the Diet.

The new laws consist of legislation allowing the dispatch of the SDF overseas to provide logistical support to US forces, the revised SDF Act, which enables the SDF to guard US military bases in Japan; and a law allowing the SDF to open fire on unidentified vessels at sea.

Today, the Japanese military can be counted among the most powerful in the world. Japan had once insisted that the SDF was not a regular army. However, it has already been strengthened into a regular armed force which has been modernized and has powerful combat capabilities. In fact, Japan has made almost all preparations necessary for it to participate in a war of aggression if it chooses to.

The legal and institutional preparations for overseas aggression have been made, step by step, approving the overseas dispatch of SDF airplanes and warships, and allowing it to be used in dealing with situations in her surrounding area.

Simultaneously, a terrible wind which threatens to infect Japanese society with a poisonous militaristic ideology is beginning to blow.

A visit to the Yasukuni Shrine by Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi in August last year, in disregard of widespread opposition from other Asian nations, and subsequent visits to the shrine by high-ranking politicians, together with the stagemanaged efforts to change Japanese school history textbooks so as to embellish her past crimes, can be cited as examples of the disturbing current trend in Japanese society.

Against this background, the country has taken a big step forward in moves towards overseas aggression, with the shocking terrorist attack in the US providing the momentum.

The legal restrictions which bound the SDF hand and foot have become worthless sheets of paper. The changes enable the Japanese government to throw the SDF into overseas military operations at any moment without the prior approval of the Diet, even if there has been no direct military attack on Japan itself.

There is no need to explain the implications of this new-found freedom.

Today it is not merely a hypothesis that the Japanese militarists are planning to invade other countries.

It has thrown off all its mask and is now revealing its true colors as a dangerous force threatening Asian and global peace and security.

Everyone must be vigilant.

If the threat posed by Japan is treated too lightly, there may be a second aggression on Korea, a second attempt to conquer China and a second Pacific war in the near future. ❑

The Japanese SDF conducting a rehearsal of overseas invasion.

Kim Chaek University of Technology

Kim Chaek University of Technology is the premier university of technology and the leader in science and technology education in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

It was founded as Pyongyang Institute of Technology on September 27, Juche 37 (1948) and was renamed Kim Chaek Institute of Technology in Juche 40 (1951) and Kim Chaek University of Technology in Juche 77 (1988).

Situated in the midtown area of Pyongyang, the capital of the DPRK, it has a total floor space of 311,000 square metres.

In September last year leader Kim Jong Il paid an important visit to the university to give on-the-spot guidance.

On the day of his visit to the university, he expressed great appreciation for the fact that it had trained a large number of technical personnel and had achieved much success in the sphere of scientific research, in keeping with the intention of the Workers' Party of Korea. He put forward the task of further promoting the training of scientific and technical personnel for the country and stepping up scientific research in line with the demand of the developing situation in the country.

A Grand Palace for Scientific and Technological Education

The university has 16 faculties and offers more than 50 courses. Scientific and technical personnel needed in various sectors of the national economy, such as the metal and electric power industries, telecommunications and computer engineering are currently being trained.

The university attaches great importance to practical training. As a result, it occupies a central role in the courses offered.

This policy is connected with the mission of the university to train capable scientific and technical personnel who have up-to-date scientific and technical knowledge and marked practical ability.

In accordance with this mission, the modernization of laboratories has been pushed forward and the material and technical foundations for providing education through experiments and practice have been laid.

The university boasts a materials workshop, a machine-building workshop and an electronicity and electricity workshop.

These workshops are all furnished with model production processes of actual scale. The students can therefore practice in casting, welding, rolling and forging without going to factories and enterprises.

The workshops are used to provide practical education element of the curriculum.

Efforts are focussed on consolidating what the students have learned in the classroom by letting them get to grips with real-life problems.

Not long ago, a party of lecturers and students went to the Komdok Mine, a leading non-ferrous metal production center.

Upon their arrival, they divided themselves into three groups; mining, ore dressing and machinery. They then conducted a variety of research work. A research project looking into a new blasting method was completed and a deposition machine was manufactured, thus making a contribution to putting production onto a steady footing. In the course of this project they acquired knowledge of real practical value, not simply the theory for theory's sake of textbooks.

A lot of effort is being put into constantly improving course content and teaching methodology. The aim is to raise the performance of the lecturers in line with the trend of development of modern science and technology .

The teaching staff are striving to ensure the modernization of instruction by making the most of audio-visual education lecture rooms furnished with equipment such as projectors, slide projectors, and video recorders.

Seminars allowing the exchange of experience are frequently being organized among lecturers, and the work of developing their scientific knowledge and skills is being conducted using various methods.

The university boasts a powerful faculty made up of academicians, candidate academicians, professors and doctors.

The number of graduates now numbers tens of thousands.

The scientists and technicians who have graduated from this university are now making a great contribution to the development of science and technology in the DPRK by putting their skills to good use.

The state pays close attention to the work of the university and has great expectations of it.

A new, rectangular school building, 15 storeys high, was completed ten years ago, part of a long term policy of constantly upgrading facilities to reflect changes in the real world.

Kim Chaek has a friendly relationship with universities in many other countries, and foreign students from several countries now study at the university.

Important Base for Scientific Research

The university is home to dozens of research institutes and research department which are attached to faculties or are run independently.

These institutes and departments are striving to solve pressing problems, the solution of which is necessary for the devel-

The 200-seat auditorium.

opment of the national economy and the country's science and technology. They are also essential if the country is to open up new high-tech fields.

University scientists have so far developed integrated circuits, automated machine tools and new materials and technical processes, among other innovations.

On display in the educational and scientific exhibition hall are more than 8,000 items of over 5,000 kinds. The exhibits demonstrate the success achieved in scientific research, and many have already been introduced in various sectors of the national economy, including geological prospecting, the mining and metal industries, the procurement of materials, the electricity industry, the manufacture of power- driven machines, the automation and electronic industries, telecommunications and computer engineering.

Lecturers and researchers have visited relevant factories and enterprises to select research project which addressed issues that warranted urgent solution and offered the prospect of producing significant economic benefits.

In the process of their research, they have made breakthroughs which are of national and world significance.

A photo processing program and the computerization of man-

The University's signboard was written by President Kim Il Sung.

An outer view.

The faculty of power-driven machinery.

The faculty of automation.

The faculty of shipbuilding.

The faculty of telecommunications.

agement activities, can be cited as examples.

The university inventions have been submitted to the international exhibition of invention and new technology held in Switzerland on five occasions, receiving favorable comments.

An ultra-high pressure vacuum pump and a number of other inventions were awarded gold and silver prizes and gold, silver or bronze medals.

In the difficult years of the “Arduous March”, the lecturers and researchers here solved various problems requiring scientific and technological research entirely by their own efforts, skills and materials. In recognition of their endeavors, leader Kim Jong Il has expressed his appreciation on dozens of occasions.

Filled with great enthusiasm, they are now working hard to rapidly raise the nation’s science and technology onto a higher level, a requirement of the Information Age. Much is expected of them.

They continue to make strenuous efforts to train scientific and technical personnel equipped with the richest possible stock of knowledge. ❑

The robot research institute.

The faculty of indus-

Professors and lecturers are doing all in their power to better train the future driving force of the nation.

“Moonlit Night at Mt. Paektu’s Secret Camp”, created using shells.

Treasure of the Times-Sincerity of the Soldiers

The Gift Exhibition Hall of the Ministry of People’s Armed Forces is situated by the Pothong River in Pyongyang, the capital of the DPRK.

Works of art produced by officers and soldiers of the KPA, presented to President Kim Il Sung and Supreme Commander Kim Jong Il, are exhibited there.

The pieces, which the officers and men of the

The embroidery, “Best Wishes”.

"Pledge of Faith", a work made from wild pear tree root.

KPA have presented over the years, now number 1,370, and are displayed in 30 different rooms.

The collection consists of many different forms and styles, including Korean painting, mosaics using butterflies, jewels, feathers or snails; handicrafts; and a number of other works of art, including folding screens, jade vases, and industrial art products made of wood.

All the presents are associated with sincerity of the soldiers of the **KPA.** A number of the pieces contain emotional stories reflecting the devotion of the **KPA** men: a large-sized sculpture weighing over 4 tons, "Glorious history of the air force of the people", of which alabaster of over 100 tons was transported 800 kms over land and then trimmed; a mosaic which was made of 335,000 small, colored stones, "General Kim Jong Il who developed an invincible air force"; a sculpture made from the root of a wild pear tree, "Pledge of Faith"; a basswood product, "A Tiger on Jong II Peak". A foreigner wrote in the visitors book as follows: "Even if all the treasures of the world are added together, they cannot be compared with the sincerity of the officers and men of the KPA, devoted to their leader." ❑

"Paean to Kwangmyongsong" in stone.

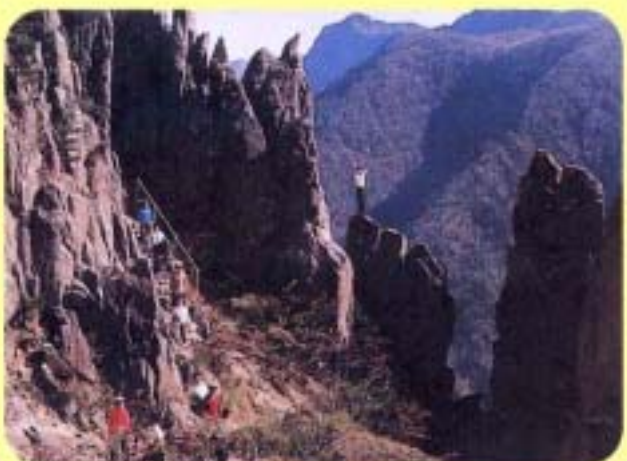
"Mettle of Korea" in wood.

Working people look round the display of gifts.

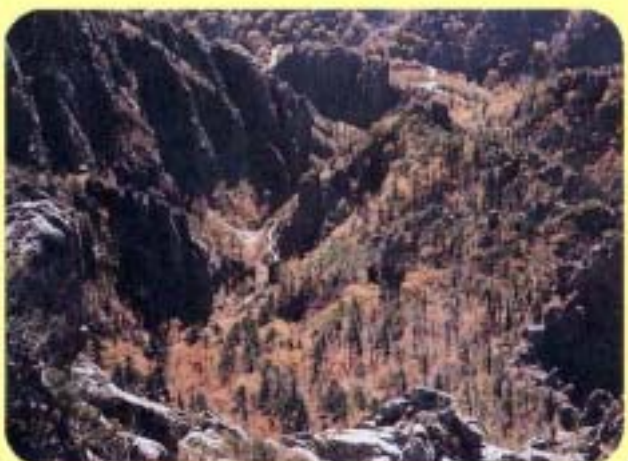
Mt. Kumgang (2)

The Manmulsang Area

Climbers on the top of Manmulsang.



The route to Chonsondae, Manmulsang.



The Manmulsang area offers a particularly spectacular landscape of Mt. Kumgang' attractions, with its precipitous folds of cliffs and fantastic rocks.

Follow the road along the westerly ravine from the Kumgangsan Hotel and you come to the Onjongryong (Onjong Pass). Taking the road up the pass, you see Kombawi (bear rock) which carries the tale that a thousand-year-old bear had one leg trapped in the rock and later became permanently set into a part of it; Kwanum Falls; Ryukhwaam (or snowflake rock), whose shape resembles a six-point snowflake; Mansangjong (Mansang peak) which has the Mansangchon Spring, noted for the cool and savoury taste of its water.

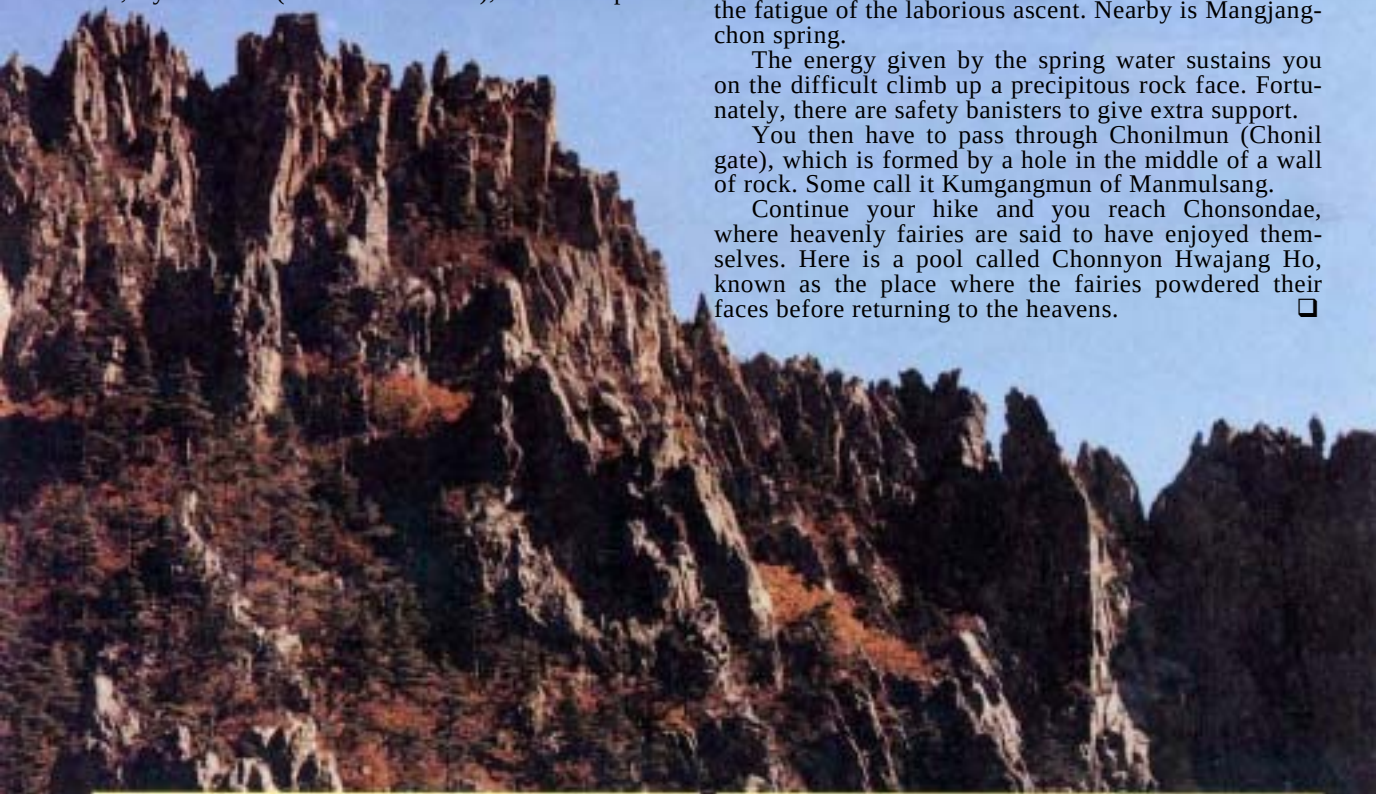
Six kilometres further up from Mansangjong brings you to the top of Onjongryong. The three peaks standing side by side seen over behind Mansangjong form the place known as Samsonam.

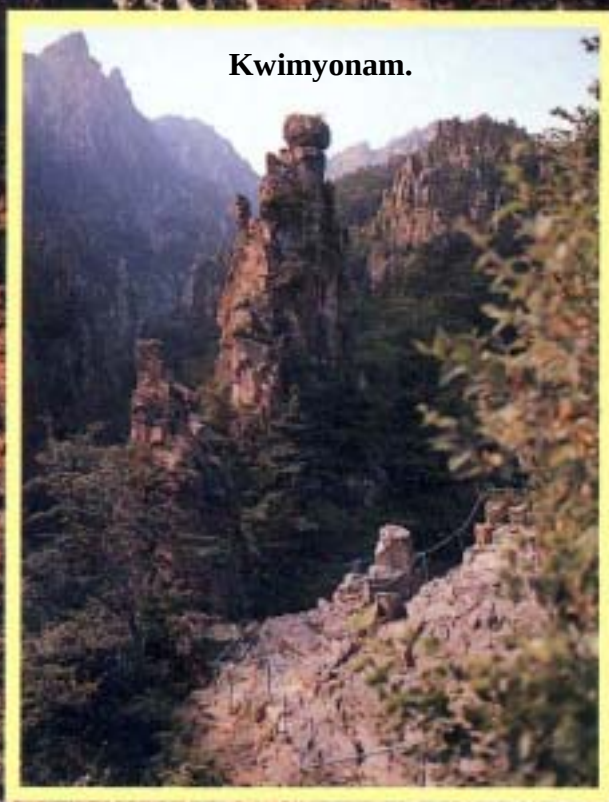
After a good while climbing past multifarious shapes of rocks and cliffs, you meet a steep uphill path that leads to Ansimdae, a place where you can relieve the fatigue of the laborious ascent. Nearby is Mangjangchon spring.

The energy given by the spring water sustains you on the difficult climb up a precipitous rock face. Fortunately, there are safety banisters to give extra support.

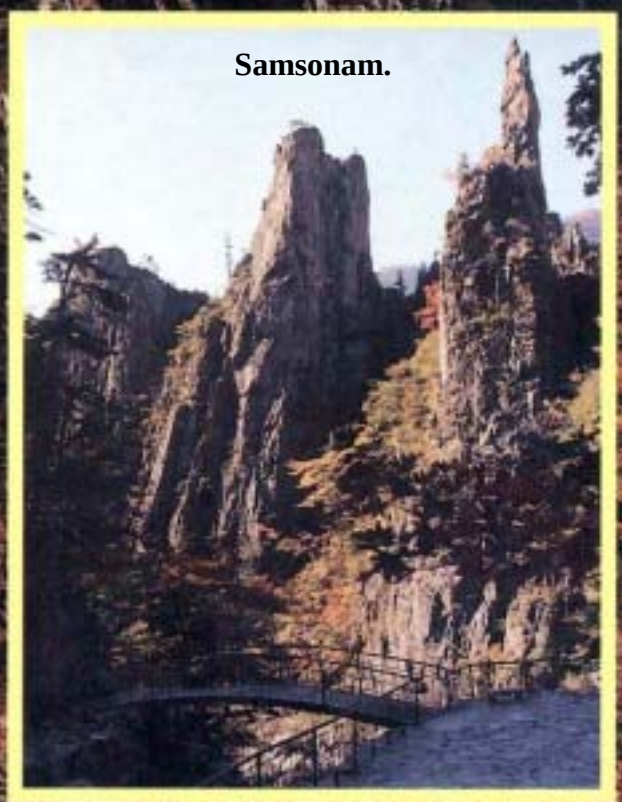
You then have to pass through Chonilmun (Chonil gate), which is formed by a hole in the middle of a wall of rock. Some call it Kumgangmun of Manmulsang.

Continue your hike and you reach Chonsondae, where heavenly fairies are said to have enjoyed themselves. Here is a pool called Chonnyon Hwajang Ho, known as the place where the fairies powdered their faces before returning to the heavens. ❑





Kwimyonam.



Samsonam.

Making a snowman.

Sledging.

Winter vacation for Korean children

Children enjoying themselves at a pleasure park.

Top-spinning.

Children's activities at the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace.

Poster "To a New Great Upswing under the Torch of Ranam"

Pyon Ho Chan, artist of the Mansudae Art Studio

The torch of Ranam is ablaze in this land filled with revolutionary vigour and an ever-victorious spirit in the army-based era.

It has been upheld by the workers of the Ranam Coal Mining Machine Complex who are fulfilling unconditionally the tasks assigned to them.

It is a torch suggestive of new endeavour and innovation which calls on the entire Party, the whole country and all the people to make a grand march for the buiding of a powerful nation in the new century.

The country is now alive with the zeal to work miracles at every work place, by modeling on the lofty ideology and spirit, character and method of work shown by the workers of Ranam who carried through their tasks unconditionally by their own efforts and technique, and accepted the tasks as the call of the homeland under any difficult conditions in which everything was in short supply.

The poster "To a New Great Upswing under the Torch of Ranam" calls upon the entire people to turn out as one upholding the torch of Ranam, and perform miracles to make the country strong and prosperous. It clearly represents the ambition of our times and the strong will and desire of our people through its lively and vigorous brushstroke, evoking great support among the people and inspiring them to greater feats. ❑